



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Rwanda

RPF Not To Enter French Zone Until 'Green Light' Given

AB1808174894 Paris AFP in French 1721 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Kigali, 18 Aug (AFP)—The UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda is "ready" to take over from the French Operation Turquoise in the humanitarian zone south-west of Rwanda, Shahargar Khan, UN special representative to Rwanda, announced today. "Besides, Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu gave me assurances this very afternoon that soldiers of the Rwandan Patriotic Front will not enter this area until we give green light," Mr. Khan added at a news conference.

Prime Minister's Statement

AB1808181794 Paris AFP in English 1753 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Kigali, Aug 18 (AFP)—The Rwandan Government "cannot accept" UN ambitions to turn the French humanitarian safety zone in the country's south-west into a demilitarised sector, Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu warned Thursday [18 August]. "But I can guarantee that the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) is not preparing to attack this zone," the prime minister said at a press conference.

French troops are scheduled to have left the region by Sunday afternoon, sparking a fresh exodus in recent days out of the zone and across the border into Zaire involving thousands of mostly Hutu refugees fearful of reprisal attacks by the RPF.

French Army spokesman Colonel Alain Rambeau said: "On the 21st at noon there will be no more French troops in Rwanda." Troops will move to Bukavu and Goma, in Zaire just west of the Rwandan border, before their repatriation to France.

The RPF is the former rebel movement of the minority Tutsis in power after defeating the Hutu-dominated government army in a three-month ethnic bloodbath, which claimed up to a million mostly Tutsi lives.

Around 23,000 people crossed the Rwandan border into Zaire at Bukavu on Thursday as 12,000 people returned to Rwanda, according to officials at the French headquarters in Cyangugu. On Wednesday 19,400 fled to Zaire as 7,780 went back to Rwanda.

The UN refugees agency (UNHCR) said in Bukavu Thursday that at least 25,000 people were currently on the road in the safety zone under French control, primarily from Gikongoro and Kibuye.

The French will hand over surveillance of the zone, where hundreds of thousands of Rwandans fled during the four-month war, to mainly African soldiers of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR II).

UNAMIR II is ready to take over from the French in the safety zone, special UN envoy Shahargar Khan said here

Thursday. "The prime minister has assured me that the military element of RPF will not move in and would wait for our green light," said Khan. He said UN forces would be exercising their mandate, which is "to provide security and relief to the population." "If it means disarming people, we will disarm," he added.

UN human rights commissioner Jose Ayala Lasso will arrive in the Rwandan capital Saturday. Lasso promised that 26 more UN observers would arrive by Saturday and that more were to follow.

The prime minister said the safety zone "has been the most disrupted in the country, despite the presence of French soliders, who were not able to stop the exodus of people towards Zaire. [passage omitted]

"The (French) Operation Turquoise was launched when the (RPF-led) government had not yet been sworn in," the prime minister said. But he stressed the African replacements would start up "with the government in place," and that the sovereignty of that government implied that RPF soldiers "be free to go wherever they like" within Rwanda.

A "demilitarised zone" is "not acceptable," he added. The southwest of the country was not "demilitarised" when the French were there, "so I don't see why it should be when the UN takes over the operation."

Referring to thus-far unsubstantiated fears of widespread reprisal attacks, Twagiramungu stressed that "the credibility of the government cannot continue being called into question." He repeated earlier pledges of security guarantees for all returning refugees and fair trials for those charged with atrocities.

Vice President and Defence Minister Paul Kagame said Wednesday that the entry of RPF soldiers into the security zone was only "a matter of time."

A military spokesman for UNAMIR, Major Jean-Guy Plante, said earlier this week that UNAMIR "would like" the southwest zone to be demilitarised. But he added that "this country belongs to the Rwandans and the UN will not be here for ever." [passage omitted]

Zaire

Government Threatens To Close Border With Rwanda

AB1808194994 Paris AFP in English 1924 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Bukavu, Zaire, Aug 18 (AFP)—Zaire has threatened to close its border with Rwanda unless UN officials find a third country that will give refuge to members of the former Rwandan Government currently on its territory, informed sources said here Thursday [18 August].

Representatives of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have told the Zairean government that it was not empowered to give such an undertaking and to meet the deadline set by Zaire for midnight Sunday, when troops are due to withdraw from Rwanda, the sources said.

UNHCR officials here have informed the organization's head office in Geneva of the Zairean demand.

Zairean military officers arrived in this eastern town, close by the Rwandan border, on Thursday and were due to be joined within the next few days by several regiments of regular army forces, the sources said.

The demand for a new refuge to be found for the former Rwandan Government was seen as reflecting Zaire's concern at the prospect of a new wave of refugees crossing from Rwanda as they did into the Goma region in mid-July. Most of the million-plus refugees who fled to Zaire in the days following the defeat of the Rwandan Government by rebel forces are still ensconced in the region, almost entirely dependent on international aid.

Aid officials fear a new flood of refugees as the Sunday midnight deadline for the withdrawal of a French humanitarian operation from southwestern Rwanda draws near.

Closure of the frontier by Zaire could also spark a panic flux of refugees attempting to cross into Zairean territory by boat or by swimming across Lake Kivu.

UNHCR officials believe that at least 25,000 Rwandans are already heading towards Zaire.

The French army forces in the "humanitarian safety zone" set up under UN mandate in Rwanda are due to be replaced by UN peacekeepers in whom the Rwandan population have relatively little confidence.

Government Welcomes Proposed Aid Resumption of Belgium

*BR1108122294 Brussels BELGA Database in French
1652 GMT 10 Aug 94*

[Article by RAY: "Zaire Favorable to New Cooperation"]

[Text] Brussels, 10 Aug (BELGA)—On Wednesday [10 August], Kimbulu Moyanso Wa Lokwa, Zairian ambassador to Belgium, told BELGA that Zaire was favorable to Belgium's announcement on Tuesday for a resumption of Belgian-Zairian cooperation, although Kinshasa was not surprised at this approach which it had been calling strongly for since 1991.

Ambassador Kimbulu said: "Overall it is a good thing and it is something the Zairian Government has been pushing for since it came to power. I hope that we can pick up the cooperation policy where we left off, i.e. by convening the great Belgian-Zairian Joint Committee."

The Zairian ambassador, stressing that his country had made an increasing number of conciliatory gestures since cooperation was halted following the events of Lubumbashi in 1990, said he wanted these preliminary contacts between Kinshasa and Brussels to be made immediately.

In this context, Mr. Kimbulu mentioned that Bertrand Dufourcq, general secretary of the French Foreign Ministry, had recently met with Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko and new Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo,

and had spoken of a gradual recovery in cooperation between France and Zaire which the French Foreign Ministry number two moreover qualified as representing "a new phase in relationships."

Reacting to the statement made by Erik Derycke, Belgian state secretary for development cooperation, in which he suggested a "conditional" restart to Belgian Zairian cooperation and a "trial period" for the Kengo government, the Zairian diplomat stressed that "you cannot place conditions on things that are not conditional."

Mr. Kimbulu was therefore reminding us that there was an "effective" separation of power in Zaire, in particular between the president of the republic, who is, as head of state, the Armed Forces' supreme commander, as is the case in many countries including Belgium and the United States, the Higher Council of the Republic-Transition Parliament, the government, and the law courts.

The National Bank of Zaire has independent status which it was awarded by a decree passed recently by Mr. Kengo's government. This was a reference to what Mr. Derycke said when he explained that "we should not wait long before we get an idea of Mr. Kengo's real powers with regard to the National Bank of Zaire."

Mr. Derycke more or less said on Tuesday: "Mr. Kengo wa Dondo's government must still meet certain conditions, and above all implement a program of economic recovery, the respect for human rights, and the establishment of a political framework."

The new official approaches of France and Belgium with regard to Kinshasa must not, however, be considered to be the end of the "western troika" (comprising France, Belgium, and the United States) which had worked to bring about change in Zaire. Mr. Kimbulu concluded that the response should be quite different: "We must consider that Zaire has now rediscovered its partners in the joint interest of each of these states."

We recall that the countries of the "troika" stopped all cooperation with Kinshasa, with the exception of certain humanitarian aid missions, in the wake of the riots and pillaging of September 1991.

Opposition Condemns Proposal

*BR1008124794 Brussels BELGA Database in Dutch
0350 GMT 10 Aug 94*

[Article signed MAE: "Union for Democracy and Social Progress Reacts To Derycke's Proposals"]

[Text] Brussels, 10 Aug (BELGA)—The UDPS [Union for Democracy and Social Progress] has reacted "with astonishment" to the proposals by Erik Derycke, state secretary for development cooperation, to resume development cooperation with the "unconstitutional" government of Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo.

In a fax received in Brussels on Wednesday morning [10 August], Justine M'Poyo-Kasavubu, Benelux representative of Etienne Tshisekedi's UDPS, said that the Belgian Government must realize sufficiently that it is "clearly supporting the (Zairian) dictatorship (of President Mobutu Sese Seko)" with this initiative.

Belgium's "unfortunate U-turn" was "motivated by the egotistical interests of the troika (comprising Belgium, France, and the United States, ed.)," Kasavubu said. She warned that her party would hold Belgium and France responsible for the consequences of the "serious mistake."

The UDPS regards the Kengo government, which took office two months ago, as unconstitutional. The UDPS regards its own leader Tshisekedi as still being the legitimate Zairian prime minister. Kengo wa Dondo was elected prime minister by the Zairian High Council of the Republic-Transitional Parliament, but that Parliament has been boycotted by the hard-line opposition.

Kasavubu said that the Kengo government had already repeatedly violated human rights in the past two months. She referred to the "renewed repression, the arbitrary arrest of opposition leaders (including Tshisekedi twice) and opposition militants." "Opposition members were prohibited from moving freely and members of the "free press" were kidnapped or threatened with death," the UDPS spokeswoman argued.

Kasavubu also pointed out that the Zairian Government has offered shelter to members of the interim Rwandan Government, the extremist Hutu politicians who are responsible for the genocide in neighboring Rwanda. Both President Mobutu and "Prime Minister" Kengo are leaving undisturbed the soldiers of the defeated Rwandan Government Army and extremist Interhamwe militias on Zairian territory, even though they are hindering the return of Rwandan refugees to their country of origin.

All these facts made it "incomprehensible" that "Belgium can at present help a Zairian people who are living under an illegal government in insecurity, a government which has nothing but contempt for the people's right to liberty and justice," the UDPS spokeswoman said.

Kapita Shabangi Appointed UDPS Foreign Secretary

BR0408135794 Brussels BELGA Database in French
0843 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Article signed RAY: "Union for Democracy and Social Progress Has New National Foreign Secretary"]

[Text] Brussels/Paris, 4 Aug (BELGA)—The Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS) has a new foreign secretary, Paul Kapita Shabangi. The UDPS announced in a press release in Paris that he will be taking over from Omer N'Kamba.

The appointment of Mr. Kapita Shabangi, who has also been made UDPS spokesman in Kinshasa, was decided by the founders' college of Etienne Tshisekedi's party.

This news was confirmed in Brussels to BELGA by Justine M'poyo Kasa-Vubu, UDPS representative and spokesperson for Benelux. Kasa-Vubu said that N'Kamba would no longer play a political role as such subsequent to Kapita Shabangi's appointment, but he would nevertheless retain his seat on the UDPS National Committee.

Kapita Shabangi, a founder member of the UDPS, a trained economist and minister in Mr. Tshisekedi's three governments, is also a former member of the "group of 13" Zairian deputies who opposed President Mobutu's single-party Popular Movement of the Revolution and who was consequently exiled to his native village by the authorities.

UFERI Issues Communiqué on Karl-I-Bond's Health

AB1808162794 Kinshasa Tele-Zaire Television Network
in French 1906 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Communiqué issued by the Union of Independent Federalists and Republicans standing committee in Kinshasa on 16 August]

[Text] The standing committee of the Union of Independent Federalists and Republicans [UFERI] has met at the party's national headquarters under the chairmanship of Gabriel Kiumbu wa Kumuanza, its chairman. At the meeting, the political bureau was briefed on:

1. A report on the health status of Jean Nguz A Karl-I-Bond, national chairman and head of the party.
2. A report on the functioning of the party during the party leader's stay abroad.
3. A review of our country's general political situation.

Concerning the party leader's state of health, the standing committee is happy to inform the national and international communities that Mr. Karl-I-Bond has left the Johannesburg Central Hospital and begun a recovery stay in a South African city along with his wife.

As to the functioning of the party, the standing committee notes with satisfaction the actual resumption of the party's activities throughout the country and, mainly, in Kinshasa.

Furthermore, the standing committee reaffirms that the party's national political leadership is assumed by Gabriel Kiumbu wa Kumuanza, national chairman, during the party leader's stay abroad. He is assisted by Lawyer Michel Lukamba Omokoko, deputy chairman; and (Jean Chrisostom Kot Ayob), secretary.

The UFERI draws the attention of the national and international communities to the fact that only Mr. Kumuanza, interim national chairman, is empowered to act on behalf of the party. Also, the standing committee has put in place a technical ad hoc commission.

[Signed] Gabriel Kiumbu wa Kumuanza, interim national chairman; (Jean Chrisostom Kot Ayob), secretary

Ethiopia

President Describes U.S. Trip as 'Successful'

EA1808142794 Addis Ababa Voice of Ethiopia Network in Amharic 1700 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] President Meles Zenawi returned to Addis Ababa today at the end of his visit to the United States. President Meles said his visit was successful. Our news-file correspondent, Negash Mohamed, has the details:

[Meles] "The attempted assault shows their true nature, and what we can say is that they have done more than they should have done."

[Negash] "This was the answer President Meles Zenawi gave to journalists after his arrival in Addis Ababa today at the end of his working tour to the United States. The attempt to assault us by those acting in the name of the opposition, said President Meles, quoting U.S. officials, was ill-mannered—in their language it is hooliganism. By attempting to assault us, they have exposed opposition activities more effectively than the government could have done."

[Meles] "The act, carried out by those who claim to be an opposition group, is taken by many U.S. official circles as hooliganism, and I have witnessed it myself. The officials also told me this." [passage omitted]

[Negash] "President Meles Zenawi, who pointed out that his visit to the United States was at the invitation of the U.S. Government, noted that the objective of the visit was to assess the relationship between the two countries, which had been established during the transitional period over the past three years and to advance the relationship. The president went on to say that the visit also aimed to create a coordinated working plan to try

and avoid problems in Africa in general, and the Horn of Africa in particular, as well as between the two countries.

The discussions between President Meles and his U.S. counterpart, Bill Clinton, and other U.S. officials, focused on Ethiopia's stance that solutions to problems in Africa should be sought early, before they became overwhelming, as in Rwanda, Somalia, and Liberia, and that U.S. policies on Africa should be presented to the countries involved before details were worked out, so that the concerned countries could comment. The response by the U.S. President was indicative that almost all the suggestions would be accepted. [passage omitted]

[Negash] The working visit to the United States by the high-ranking transitional government delegation, which included Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin, and which was headed by President Meles Senawi, was successful, according to President Meles' press statement.

Uganda

UN Delegation Briefs Museveni on Liberia

EA1808191794 Kampala Radio Uganda Network in English 1700 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Excerpt] A delegation from the UN Observer Mission for Liberia [UNOMIL], led by the head of the integration unit of UNOMIL, Colonel Bill Minnis, has briefed President Yoweri Museveni on what is happening in Liberia and the progress so far made in the implementation of the Cotonou Agreement signed in July 1993. The delegation, which called on President Yoweri Museveni today at his office in Kampala, has been on a five-day mission to Uganda to study the NRA [National Resistance Army] experience in disarmament and demobilization. Col. Minnis told the president that they had benefited a great deal from their visit. [passage omitted]

Mandela Address to Parliament

*MB1808132294 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1301 GMT 18 Aug 94*

["Opening address" by President Nelson Mandela in Cape Town on 18 August issued by the Office of the President on the SAPA PR Wire Service]

[Tect] Madame speaker and deputy speaker; President of the Senate and deputy president; Deputy presidents; Distinguished members of Parliament; Esteemed guests; Comrades; Ladies and gentlemen:

I stand before you aware of the momentous times that we are traversing. These times also demand of us that we regularly account to this august assembly about the work entrusted to us by the electorate.

Much can be said about the content of the debate in the current session. On occasion, strong language has been used to drive home strongly-held belief. Within the limits of what is befitting of members of this house, this shows that we have at last a robust and vibrant democracy, with broad consensus on the most important national questions.

Down the years, human society has pitted itself against the pestilences of poverty, disease and ignorance. Progress has been achieved while reverses have also been sustained. It is incumbent on South Africa to be in the company of those who have recorded more success than failure.

At the end of the day, the yardstick that we shall all be judged by is one and one only: and that is, are we, through our endeavours here, creating the basis to better the lives of all South Africans! This is not because the people have some subjective expectations fanned during an election campaign. Neither is it because there is a magic wand that they see in the new government. Millions have suffered deprivation for decades and they have the right to seek redress. They fought and voted for change; and change the people of South Africa must have.

A hundred days ago, the president and deputy presidents of the new democratic republic were sworn in. Our people and the whole world marvelled at what has been variously characterised as a miracle and an epoch-making event.

Are we worthy of their trust and confidence?

Our negotiation process delivered a unique transitional mechanism which accommodates major opposition parties in a government of national unity. Further, we are, together, finding creative ways of utilising the talents of all other parties in the task of nation-building.

Naturally, we are all striving to find the correct balance in this new terrain.

What is crucial, however, is that we have forged an enduring national consensus on the interim constitution

and the broad objectives of reconstruction and development. This consensus is neither an imposition of one party over others; nor a honeymoon premised on the fickle whims of a fleeting romance. What brings us together is the overriding commitment to a joint national effort to reconcile our nation and improve its well-being.

The unique product of our negotiations—the interim constitution and charter of fundamental rights, and now the RDP [Reconstruction and Development Program]—constitute the firm foundation for launching our nation from the mire of conflict, poverty, disease and ignorance. These agreements were reached because they were, and still are, absolutely necessary for South Africa. They are not about to fade away like a passing bliss.

This does not subtract from the fact that there are different constituencies with divergent interests represented by our diverse parties. We should not be fearful of the obvious consequence: that there are bound to be differences of emphasis and approach on a variety of matters.

To present a facade of unity on each and every issue would be artificial, undemocratic and patently pretentious. The more these issues are aired and opened up for public debate, the better for the kind of democracy we seek to build. Handled within the bounds dictated by the interests of coherent and effective governance, such debate will definitely enrich our body politic. This applies equally to debate within parties about how to manage this novel experience.

From the outset, the government of national unity set itself two interrelated tasks: reconciliation and reconstruction, nation-building and development. This is South Africa's challenge today. It will remain our challenge for many years to come.

A hundred days after our inauguration, our overwhelming impression of our reality is that: Our nation has succeeded to handle its problems with great wisdom; We have a government that has brought together bitter enemies into a constructive relationship; Our Parliament and cabinet have properly focused on the task of reconstruction and development; and We have a government that is in control and whose programmes are on course.

This is the essence of our collective success—an achievement that no sceptic can take away from our nation. In this regard, we should congratulate all South Africans for the reconciliatory spirit with which they have handled the transition, and for their patience, as the new government found its feet.

Yet there are problems that need urgent attention, such as violence in the East Rand and Natal, the wanton killing of security force members, abuse and kidnapping of children and various other crimes. Among these, the traffic in narcotics and drug abuse need the most serious and urgent attention. I have had discussions with the

ministers concerned, and these matters are being sufficiently canvassed in their budget debates. There can be no argument about the need to take urgent, visible and effective measures to eradicate these problems.

Questions have been asked about the slow pace in ending racism in some work-places. Legislation exists or is being prepared to deal with these problems. But, legislation on its own cannot change attitudes. We appeal to all South Africans to ensure that discrimination, abuse and any other backward attitudes against others, based on differences of gender, race, religion, language or other distinctions are done away with.

The issue of a truth and reconciliation commission has generated much public debate and some apprehension. The minister of justice is working to achieve broad agreement on this sensitive matter. In a nutshell, what this issue raises is how we deal with a past that contained gross violations of human rights—a past which threatens to live with us like a festering sore.

The question of amnesty for those who had done wrong is dealt with in the interim constitution. The challenge is to ensure that amnesty helps to heal the wounds of the past by also addressing the plight of the victims.

A truth and reconciliation commission will therefore need to operate on the basis of certain core principles:

Firstly, it will manage and supervise the process of amnesty as required by the constitution, in accordance with the principle of disclosure and other criteria laid down by the law.

Secondly, it will make recommendations on steps to be taken to ensure that such violations never take place again; to build respect for the law; to restore the dignity of victims and their families and provide some degree of reparation.

Thirdly, such a commission will not be a court nor a tribunal. In this respect, we agree with the view of many sectors, including the police services, that any prosecutions and trials should be for the attorney-general and recognised courts of law to handle.

Needless to say, such a commission will have to operate in an even-handed fashion on the basis of non-partisan criteria.

We are confident that this balanced approach, based on consultation among all our people and drawing on the positive experiences of other countries, will help resolve the matter in a manner that benefits the country as a whole.

In reviewing the implementation of the Reconstruction and Development Programme, we should keep in mind the reality that the progress that we make in reconciling our nation will determine the pace at which this programme is implemented. On the other hand, reconciliation will remain shallow if it is not accompanied by thorough-going changes in all areas of life.

The RDP should, therefore, be understood as an all-encompassing process of transforming society in its totality to ensure a better life for all. It addresses both the principal goals of transformation and ways of managing it. The RDP is not a sum-total of projects, no matter how important each project may be. Among its major elements are: 1. Socio-economic programmes to improve the lives of all South Africans. In this regard, we must ensure that ordinary people are fully involved in the planning and management of these programmes. 2. Economic growth that is sustainable, generates employment and development of human resources, and is characterised by a high degree of equity. 3. Reform of institutions, particularly the civil service and the rest of the public sector, to make them more representative, efficient and effective. 4. An educational, scientific and cultural programme which reflects non-racial and democratic principles and mores.

Underpinning these objectives is our determination to utilise all resources available to the government to their optimum without waste, duplication and mismanagement. This is best achieved by insisting on, among other things, fiscal discipline, re-organisation of expenditure patterns and careful planning.

There is broad consensus around all these issues, reflected in the policies pursued by the government of national unity. The process now under way, to consult widely in drafting the white paper on the RDP, should further consolidate this consensus and ensure that the nation as a whole commits itself and acts as one to meet these objectives.

On the 24th of May, in the state of the nation address, we identified certain projects to be carried out urgently as a token of our commitment to reconstruction and development. We set the deadline of the 1st of september for their implementation.

We should once more emphasise that, on their own, these projects are not the RDP. The RDP fund directed at these and other projects is meant to initiate broader programmes of urban renewal, rural development, development of our human resources, elimination of poverty and democratisation of social institutions.

One of the most crucial indices of success is how this fund is eliciting changes in the spending priorities of government departments at all levels, while maintaining fiscal discipline. An encouraging sign in this regard is that a further large amount has been added from government departments, thus availing a much larger total for special RDP projects during this financial year. The projects identified on the 24th of May will be the first phase in ensuring the realisation of these long-term objectives.

What progress has been made with regard to the projects themselves? 1. Free medical care for children under six and pregnant mothers: The response has been overwhelming because this measure was sorely needed. As a

result, minor illnesses that would have later presented complications are being dealt with at the primary stage. Of course, this has amplified the very real problems of overcrowding and lack of facilities and drugs. The health department, in consultation with provinces and other role players, is devising appropriate strategies of handling them.

Further, we are finalising arrangements for allocations from the RDP fund and the health department for a major clinic-building programme. This will go a long way in alleviating the difficulties in the most depressed areas.

We have also allocated funds for an expanded aids awareness and prevention campaign. The obvious must be stated over and over again. This epidemic has major social and economic implications for our nation and must be addressed with urgency. 2. Primary school feeding scheme: Preparatory work has already been finalised to cater for half of the total number of primary school pupils in areas of desperate need. Particularly rural areas and informal settlements. Implementation should start by the 1st of September.

The contribution of this scheme to children's development and the culture of learning cannot be over-emphasised. In addition, we are examining a further allocation to the campaign to promote this culture. We are also launching major national campaigns to tackle the vast backlog in the provision of adult basic education and for the rebuilding and rehabilitation of schools. 3. Electrification programme: The electrification programme is proceeding apace. Despite problems here and there, we should congratulate Eskom [Electricity Supply Commission] and some of the municipal authorities for the excellent work being done. 4. Rebuilding townships and restoring: Plans have been finalised to start such projects in the East Rand, Cape Flats, Duncan Village, Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein and Townships in Kwa-Zulu/Natal. Areas of focus will primarily be those affected by violence. An effort has been made to ensure balanced geographic distribution while taking into account areas where there are structures ready to implement the programme.

The biggest single programme to be funded by the RDP projects allocation is the rehabilitation and extension of municipal services and infrastructure in urban and rural areas. Combined with the outstanding initiatives with a regard to the housing programme, this project will play an important role in facilitating the development of legitimate local government structures.

An integrated rural development programme is also being launched. A very large allocation of funds to these projects has already been made, with emphasis on providing water and sanitation as well as land reform. These include:

Water and sanitation projects serving 1.7-million people—primarily in the Northern Transvaal and KwaZulu/

Natal; The restitution of land to communities, affecting about 29,000 people; Land distribution, with sustainable settlement planning, which will benefit over two-thousand (2,000) families;

All these form part of land reform projects, including a programme to uplift small farmers.

As many of these projects as possible will be carried out through the national public works programme to maximise job opportunities and provide training. In addition, a special allocation will be passed on to communities by the relevant ministry for infrastructural projects.

We should admit that the projects announced on the 24th of May were more or less conceived of from the centre. We can justifiably plead pressure of time. But we should now ensure that communities take active part in the planning, execution and management of such projects.

Because of the ground-swell of requests from communities which are eager to roll up their sleeves and tackle their problems, we have earmarked a special discretionary fund of R100-million [rands] for the provinces. Its distribution among the provinces will take into account the levels of under-development.

Details on these and other projects will be given by the minister without portfolio.

Significant progress towards a sustained take-off has therefore been made. However, this government does not claim to have all the answers. Preparation of these projects has been a valuable learning experience for us. This is even more crucial, because ours is a comprehensive programme, not an exercise in throwing money at problems.

What then are these lessons?

Firstly, the RDP fund should be seen as a temporary measure. Funding from a special instrument should taper off as the ministries themselves redirect their spending and give their operations a reconstruction and development character. The identified projects are now being subjected to analysis to ensure that their carry-over costs and recurrent expenditure are accommodated in the 1995-96 and succeeding budgets. Strict inter-departmental co-ordination will be crucial for their success.

Secondly, central government can only provide the framework. Implementation has to be carried out by local structures. It is for this reason that central government and the provinces have put in place mechanisms to co-ordinate their work and expedite the allocation of powers to the provinces. The office of the president is paying particular attention to this, as well as the matter of speeding up the establishment of transitional local government structures. Without the latter, allocation of funds and therefore implementation of many of the projects may be unduly delayed. We call on those local

councils which have not already done so, to finalise the establishment of transitional structures. And we add our voice to the call for communities to pay for services that are delivered to them.

Thirdly, we are insistent that the management of all projects must follow strict guidelines, including assessment of their job-creation and training capacity in line especially with the public works programme, community involvement, fair employment practices, sustainability and so on. A proper business plan which includes procedures for performance assessment, auditing, procurement, resource costing and measures to minimise consultancy fees must be drawn up before the funds are released.

Fourthly, government and independent developmental agencies are consulting on the best mechanisms needed to utilise foreign donor aid in such a way that it enhances the nation's development objectives in a systematic manner. We are confident that consensus will be reached on all these issues and that South Africa will provide a good example of building a strong partnership between government, the NGO's and the donors around developmental assistance.

In addition to these lessons, two matters of principle stand out in bold relief.

One of them is the urgent need to involve communities in a pro-active manner in the implementation of these programmes. This requires that community-based organisations must take up the responsibility of mobilising the people for this purpose. Weaknesses in this area have, for instance, delayed the introduction of the primary school feeding scheme. In this regard, the role of parliamentarians in mobilising for, and monitoring, the actual implementation of RDP projects needs to be closely examined.

The second crucial question pertains to the task of ensuring that the public service becomes a servant of the public in fact! We commend members of the public service who have demonstrated their loyalty to the new government and their preparedness to adapt to new conditions.

In line with the new reality, and within the parameters of the interim constitution, the following measures require urgent attention:

- Restructuring the service so as to make it truly representative of South African society;
- Developing links between the service and the public through

various fora of consultation;

Inculcating a culture for employees to take pride in serving in outlying and underdeveloped areas;

Simplifying the grading system and making a public service career more challenging and attractive; and

Restructuring the salary package, sensitive both to qualification and merit, and the unacceptably wide gap between the lowest and highest grades.

The department of public administration is attending to these matters, particularly through the proposed forum between government as employer and public service organisations. A new orientation and motivation within the service will be crucial in the realisation of the nation's development objectives.

The spirit of public service needs to permeate all levels of work, including the intelligence community. The intelligence bills that will soon be tabled go a long way in ensuring this. What is needed is adherence to the letter and spirit of the constitution, including in particular, commitment to the protection of the country's interests and recognition of the rights of all citizens. This requires among other things the rapid dismantling of all the networks which kept members of the public under surveillance simply because they were opposed to the government of the day. I am receiving comprehensive briefings on all these matters and I will make public announcements in due course.

All these issues emphasise the fact that we have some distance to travel to achieve the objective of transforming South African society. Government departments should be seen to lead this process.

In this regard, I should congratulate all the national and provincial departments and services—including the national defence force, police and intelligence services—which have over the past months spent long hours and sleepless nights to bring about rapid changes in their areas of work. The reports I have recently received from national departments and provinces show deep commitment and enthusiasm, and they give me the confidence that we shall succeed.

In line with the objectives of the Reconstruction and Development Programme, we will, by the end of the year, require clear medium- and long-term strategies from all departments and parastatal institutions on mechanisms of shifting their operations to meet the requirements of reconstruction and development.

Many comments have been made about inadequacies in the current budget. Yet there is also unanimity that the first steps towards fundamental restructuring have been taken. The cabinet started last week to discuss guidelines for the 1995-96 budget. We are confident that more fundamental restructuring will be introduced, without undermining the requirement for fiscal discipline. In working out detailed allocations to current RDP projects, we have ensured thorough co-ordination with the department of state expenditure and the central economic advisory services, so that RDP expenditure is properly built into the budget process.

As indicated by the minister of finance, we will seek to involve parliamentary committees in the formulation of

the 1995-96 budget. This will not only be democratic and transparent. It will also allow for joint responsibility among all sectors of government.

I should take this opportunity to thank Minister Derek Keys for the splendid work that he has done in meeting the challenges of the new situation. I am confident that his successor, Chris Liebenberg will acquit himself well, for the benefit of the whole country.

Many opportunities have opened up for South Africa to exceed even our wildest expectations. But this requires that we all take up the cudgels and consciously change our paradigms.

For instance, it is not enough for business to concern itself with how its interests are protected under the current dispensation. Rather business should be part of the process of determining policy, with the full realisation that this entails both gearing business towards the objectives of growth and equity and ensuring active participation in the socio-economic programmes to uplift the disadvantaged.

In the same vein, workers do have to advance their interests through the collective bargaining system. At the same time, the new situation obliges all of us to take on board the broader questions of increased investments, investor confidence and requirements of economic growth and equity.

Both the labour movement and large and small businesses should be fully involved in developing strategies for successful economic growth and equity, as partners with government. Such an understanding is fundamental to the success of the RDP, and its precise character will be explored as we work together in tri-partite structures. The critical merger of the NMC [National Manpower Commission] and NEF [National Economic Forum] into a National Economic, Development and Labour Council will allow for such joint government, labour and business strategies to ensure a vibrant and growing economy.

The economic signs are encouraging, and the upswing is steadily consolidating. A growth rate of more than 3 per cent is no longer a pipe-dream. But this depends on co-operation among all sectors of the population in finding solutions to any constraints on economic growth, development and equity.

Already, the interest of the world in South Africa is being translated into concrete economic deeds. Together, through consistent policies and actions, we have gained and continue to gain the confidence of the international community. However, international support will be of value only if it helps us to set our economy on a steep and consistent growth and development path. This is the sure guarantee to the success of the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

There is no doubt that we have the capacity as a nation to realise these objectives. The people want real change for the better, and they are prepared to work for it. They

expect of representatives in community structures and in Parliament and government, leadership that meets the requirements of the times we live in. They have elected us into office because they trust that we will meet their aspirations. The progress made in these 100 days bears testimony to the great potential that exists.

Let us harness the nation's energies to more rapidly develop and reconstruct our country. In this way, our society will experience meaningful and lasting reconciliation.

Thank you.

Mandela Interviewed on First 100 Days

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[Interview with President Nelson Mandela by SABC CCV TV political correspondent Leslie Mashokwe, SABC TV 1 political correspondent Lester Venter, and announcer Tim Modise at Tuynhuys, Cape Town on the "Agenda" program—live]

[Text] [Mashokwe] Good evening and welcome. This is a special edition of Newsline and Agenda, and we're being joined by other radio stations. Tonight the focus falls on the government of national unity, 100 days of the government of national unity. We are being joined here at Tuynhuys by the president, Mr. Nelson Mandela. Good evening to you sir, and welcome.

[Mandela] Good evening.

[Mashokwe] I have my colleagues here. In the center Lester Venter and on the far left Tim Modise. Good evening gentlemen and welcome.

Mr. president, first question. What would you say the government of national unity has achieved for the country and the people of South Africa?

[Mandela] I have spelled out these achievements in my address to Parliament today. The essence of the first 100 days of the government of national unity is that we have attempted to address the basic needs of the people of South Africa. The question of poverty, of illiteracy, of disease, unemployment, lack of houses, educational facilities. We have also made progress in trying to build national unity, fostering the spirit of national reconciliation. And I think also we have endeavored to try and create an environment where it is possible for investments, for donors to find it possible to help extend democracy in the country.

[Mashokwe] What is that you would have wanted to do that you were not able to do in the past 100 days?

[Mandela] I have no exaggerated expectations about the first 100 days. If we do not adopt a realistic approach to social problems that are facing the country, we can disappoint expectations of the people. In the course of the election campaign, there is one central issue I

stressed over and over again. I said the task of addressing the basic needs, which I spelled out, is not something that can be attained overnight. It is something that is going to take months, even years, to address. But the important thing is that the day of that election, the process of trying to address those problems will start. We have started, and I believe that the plans that we have formulated are on course, and I therefore have no regret that there are things that I have planned to achieve during the first 100 days we have failed to do.

[Venter] Mr. President, you made it clear that you're quite pleased with the government of national unity. In fact you said that it has brought bitter enemies into a constructive relationship, and I don't think anybody would contest that. But do you think it's a form of government, a structure of government that should remain, for by the time we get to the next election, do you think we should have changed to a more normal sort of government with a governing party and opposition?

[Mandela] I have no fears whatsoever about the ability of all the main leaders in the government of national unity to keep that unity intact as long as the conditions in the country demand that. What we do is going to depend on the conditions. As far as I'm concerned, the government of national unity is there for the next five years, and I'll defend that.

[Modise] In South Africa today, Mr. Mandela, you are regarded as one of the sons of the soil, and you enjoy personality cult status and you happen to be leader of a new democracy. What kind of effect do you think that this cult status that you enjoy has had on your leadership, and what kind of precedent is it setting for developing democracy?

[Mandela] I think we must resist assessing the situation in terms of an individual, because it is the collective effort not only of the ANC, but of all the other stakeholders who have been involved in this process, and I think therefore it would be an error to concentrate on what I perceive to be the ability of a particular individual. If this collective is perceived as not functioning, I don't think that any particular individual would make an impact in regard to the problems facing this country. We have made progress because all the organizations have collaborated to create this environment where it is possible for us to address the national issues facing the country.

[Venter] Mr. President, I'd like to stay for a moment with the general character of this new political beast we have in the country—a government of national unity. Now one of the things that one could say about it is that what has been surprising is not how much tension and how much conflict there has been in Parliament in these 100 days, but how little there has been, how little conflict between the parties. Now some people are saying it's almost artificial, but South Africa is a country with many people with conflicting interests and that there should be

more of, in a sense, those interests colliding in Parliament. What do you feel about that perspective?

[Mandela] I don't think in a democracy we should expect all parties to agree on any single issue. The essence of democracy is that differences are healthy as long as they are genuine, as long as those views are genuinely held. In our own organization, the African National Congress, we normally discuss the basic issues and we start from extreme poles, but through discussion, through persuasion, we are able to reach a consensus. That is the principle that we have fostered in the government of national unity. We don't paper over difficulties, over differences, but we are concentrating on those issues which unite us, and there is scope for all the leaders, and I think that they are playing their role very well. There is scope to concentrate on those issues that unite us, and I think that is the essence, the achievement of the government of national unity. We have made progress because the caliber of the leaders in the government of national unity are able to see those issues that unite us.

[Venter] Sorry Leslie, just a last point here, You know, some of those leaders, you must be aware, are struggling with the identity that they should adopt. That is, are they opposition leaders, leaders of parties in opposition to yours, or are they partners, all be it junior partners of yours in government? They are struggling to find a political character and a political identity. Now how does that look to you, and do you have any advice? [Venter laughs]

[Mandela] Well, the fact that we have a government of national unity, and we are seeking consensus, does not mean that the minority parties are not in the opposition. They are perfectly entitled to criticize the government of national unity, to differ with it on a wide variety of issues. But it is the task of the leadership to focus, to continue focusing attention on those things that unite us. We are both partners, we are separate organizations, and we have been able to marry those two scenarios together, and we have made progress. One of the things I am resisting, and I'll continue to resist, is that the minority parties should feel that the government of national unity is a hollow shell, and that they are being used for the purpose of rubber stamping what the majority party has decided. I have resisted that, I'll continue to resist it, and up to now I have had no real problems in putting that message across in the government of national unity.

[Mashokwe] But, Mr. President, in the same vein are we not talking here of a government led by the ANC? Come 1999 the ANC, when the RDP [Reconstruction and Development Program], which is its program, has been implemented successfully, we hope the ANC will turn around and say, we did it, and the other players might then have to play second fiddle. They might have helped you achieve this, and they will come out second best!

[Mandela] Leslie, I have, even in the course of the election, warned against those people who did not want to give sufficient opportunity to other political parties to

canvas their point of view in certain areas. I have said to my own organization—you must remember that these same people who are enemies today, who are regarded as rivals, are going to be our partners in the government of national unity. Let us not open wounds now that we will find difficult to heal when we now form the government of national unity. If we intended, after five years, to dismiss other political parties, we would not be speaking this language we are speaking today. We would not be saying, let us not abuse our majority. Let everybody feel that he is participating in the whole program we have mapped out in the Reconstruction and Development Program as an equal partner. We have put that message across very forcefully. That is not the attitude of a party that is going to turn round and say: we dismiss you.

We have also said that the RDP, whatever its origin was, has now become the collective property of all political organizations in the government of national unity and outside, and that is why I am working hard to ensure that those political parties that did not make the threshold of five percent are brought into government. I am prepared to persuade everybody to revisit the constitution to make sure that those political parties that are outside the government of national unity are involved.

[Modise] And many political observers have noticed that the government moved swiftly to establish the volksraad [Afrikaners People's Council] at the behest of the Freedom Front, and the IFP asked for international mediation, but there hasn't been any movement on that, and on the basis of what Chief Buthelezi has already said, that two years down the line he thinks it might happen that the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] will have to pull out of the government of national unity, and of course this is based on what kind of constitution we end up with in South Africa?

[Mandela] We are prepared to address all issues which are matters of concern, either to those who are inside the government of national unity or those outside. Our idea is that we should speak with one voice on all the problems facing the country. The question of mediation is one that is under discussion, and I do not think that we should be unfair to Chief Buthelezi. I have discussed the matter with him, and it did appear from what he said to me that he was misquoted by the press. He even undertook to send me the copy of the statement. I trust him, I respect him, I said: I accept your word of assurance to me that this is not your attitude. In any case, even if he had said so, that does not mean to say that we have come to the end of the world. Chief Buthelezi is a leader I respect, and I have no hesitation in going to him to say: let us sit down and sort out this matter. And I have no fear that anyone of the partners inside the government of national unity is going to march out.

[Mashokwe] Mr. President, you spoke earlier about the truth commission. Some people are worried about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, as it will open the wounds, as it were. Would you rather not have

concentrated on addressing the victims of apartheid, amnesty, issues that would contribute towards the spirit of reconciliation rather than opening of wounds?

[Mandela] I have explained the purpose of establishing this commission. The interim constitution in dealing with amnesty is dealing with the perpetrators of the crimes that were committed. It's not dealing with the case of the victim. It is only the truth commission that is going to address the problems of the victims of these crimes. This commission is not a court of law. It is merely there to get the facts. If any crimes have been committed it is for the attorney general and the ordinary courts of the country to charge those people and to find them guilty if there is enough evidence. The truth commission has nothing to do at all with the punishment of individuals. All that it is intended to achieve is to ensure what crimes were committed, what suffering took place as far as the victims are concerned, and it is proper for the purpose of proper healing, that the concerns of the victims should be addressed, and this is the primary purpose of this commission.

[Venter] Mr. President, when you spoke about the truth and reconciliation commission this afternoon, you mentioned in passing reparation for the victims. Now that struck me as something new. May I ask you just to expand on what you were thinking about in that respect?

[Mandela] It is proper and it is in the interest of justice that those who have suffered must receive the special attention of the government of the day and it would not be just when a breadwinner has been killed, and when the family is suffering as a result of that, for the government of the day to stand aloof and to say this is not my affair, and it is in that sense that we have used the expression reparation.

[Modise] Mr. President, reconciliation is very much part of the theme of your government. How do you feel when people, ordinary South Africans go to work, ask for services, ask for pay rises and ask for this and that, and they get told: Go to your Mandela?

[Mandela] Tim, the task of eradicating apartheid in all its manifestations, and of changing the mind set of the people of this country is not something that can be achieved overnight. It is a process, and I think we should have the vision to accommodate the views of those who are lagging behind. What we must concentrate upon is that South Africans have been very gracious, and they have responded in an impressive manner to the message that we are putting across, of reconciliation, of nation building, of addressing the socioeconomic problems facing our country. I think that is what we should concentrate upon. People who do not see the issues in the way in which we would like them to see, those people we must sympathize with and we must not be diverted from the principle aim before the government of national unity, of addressing the basic needs of our people, of uniting the country, of fostering the spirit of reconciliation.

[Mashokwe] President Mandela, are you not concerned about the industrial action that is going on? Some people say the message we are sending abroad will not send more investment into the country.

[Mandela] I do not share the view that there is a crisis in the labor front in this country. When agreements between employers and employees expire, we have had almost every year in the past this type of demonstration. The workers are entitled to put forward their demands and these matters should be amicably sorted out between labor and management and I don't think that there is any special crisis in this country. We would have preferred that these problems should be sorted out without any conflict between the workers and the employers, and I think in this regard Comrade Tito Mboweni has done exceptionally well because he has played the role of a mediator, brought the contending parties together, and was able to influence a settlement in several of them, and there is no abnormal situation in this country, but of course all of us as I have said in my address to Parliament, have got a responsibility to ensure that there is industrial peace in the country, that the environment for economic stability is there and that the confidence of investors should be deeply entrenched, rather than shaken. That is an observation I am making without attaching blame either to the workers or to the employers. I would urge them to sit down and to sort out their problems amicably.

[Venter] Mr. President, you know there is another view and it's one that expresses a deeper anxiety, mainly that workers are becoming impatient at waiting for your government to deliver the changes they have come to expect, and that these workers are saying: We hear about the RDP, but we don't actually see anything happening yet, and that they have decided to strike at the nearest source of ... [changes thought] resource of improvement, namely strike at the employers for what they want, and that therefore, your government is in a position or should do something more concrete to allay those fears, otherwise the strikes will continue to grow and spread as they are doing at the moment.

[Mandela] I don't regard the high expectation on the part of those who were denied an opportunity as unreasonable. They can see their white counterparts in the country enjoying rights and privileges that are still denied to them. So it's reasonable for them to be impatient. The point is that we must continue with our plans to address these issues, and my experience dealing with the leadership of COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] is that that leadership understands the situation very well, and that instead of aggravating the situation, they are trying to bring about peace, and you must understand that they are first and foremost leaders of the workers. And they look at problems from the point of view of ensuring that justice is done to the workers. I don't think there's anything which requires us to decide that there is now a crisis. This situation has happened several times in the past, almost every year.

There is nothing unique about the fact that when agreements expire the workers should want to negotiate better conditions for themselves.

[Modise] It is said that 65 percent of employed South Africans earn less than 1,500 rands per month, and these include the ones you mentioned work for you, and both of these workers say that a greater portion of their salaries go toward transport, and that is why they are so aggrieved from time to time, and we haven't had anything forthcoming from government because a transport policy is still to be evolved. What is the government's position on that?

[Mandela] The minister of transport, Mac Maharaj, delivered his address yesterday. These are questions which are receiving attention, but you must understand that one of the gravest mistakes you can make is to have solutions coming from top downward. The community itself must be deeply involved. The initiative on the part of the government of national unity in a wide range of matters is to be welcomed, but it is proper that the community that is involved should also feel that they are addressing the problem, and I think that Comrade Mac Maharaj, the minister of transport, is doing this very well because he is having ongoing discussions with the transport organizations, the factories and so on in order to ensure that these problems are dealt with. He is also having discussions with other stakeholders in the country to ensure that all the problems relating to transport, which increased the concerns of the people who have been sent outside, far away from their work places, that they should be addressed. And I think therefore the whole question of transport is now under scrutiny, and is being addressed by a comrade who is highly competent, very able, and who has a deep sense of social concepts, and who feels that this matter must be addressed.

[Venter] Mr. President, the issue of expectations is a critical issue in our politics. I think everyone agrees that there are legitimate aspirations in the population, but people are asking whether the government is delivering those aspirations quickly enough. For example, and we must be aware that today many people expected you to speak more specifically about the RDP in your speech and to lay out a more concrete program. Are you confident, are you happy that the government is delivering as fast as it is possible for it to do?

[Mandela] That is not the perception. I have addressed a couple of meetings already, explaining what we have done, and the only question you can raise is whether there is sufficient communication between the government of national unity, and the masses of the people. The explanation we have given as to the steps we have already taken, has been welcomed very widely. The fact that we have already started a free health scheme for children under six, and for pregnant mothers, that is deeply appreciated. The fact that on the first of September we are going to start with a feeding—a free

feeding scheme in primary schools, involving half the population of scholars, of children in primary school. In spite of the lack of infrastructure which we have to attend to to ensure that these plans take off efficiently, in spite of those disabilities which are not of our making, nevertheless we are making progress.

We have focused about urban and rural renewal, which is addressing these matters. We have outlined the plans that have been completed, or are in the process of completion in regard to housing, and I think that we have identified specific issues in which progress has been made. But if you are discussing the question whether we are communicating sufficiently with the masses of the people to understand what we are doing, that is something different. It may well be that there is some concern—genuine concern—about the fact that we have not yet devised a strategy to ensure that everybody is aware of the plan which the government of national unity is embarking on, and the progress that has been made.

[Venter] Indeed, that was part of really what I was asking, also communication, but then if I may just ask this—we know between 2.5 billion has been set aside, plus the extra amounts that you spoke about today. Now, the schemes that you have been talking about, the medical schemes, the school feeding schemes and so on, one imagines without knowing, do not take up all of that amount of money. My question is this—the white paper that the government is preparing on the RDP, will that give a clearer picture of where the money, the global amounts, are being allocated, and what the specific schemes in the RDP...

[Mandela, interrupting] I think the white paper is intended to deal with those specific issues. What we want to put across, the country to understand, is that this Reconstruction and Development Program is not a pipe dream. It's something that is achievable, something that is realizable, and that can be spelt out, will be spelt out in the white paper, and all the details you want to have in order to ensure that this plan is achievable will be set out in the government white paper then.

[Mashokwe] Mr. President, the person who voted on 27 [April] staying in a shack, still lives in a shack; the one who lived in Sandton then still lives in Sandton. To the one who voted for you then, the perception is that you are addressing white fears, and doing very little about black aspirations?

[Mandela] Well, I do not know if in the light of what I have spelt out, you can justifiably continue with that argument. The free health scheme is not addressing the fears of the whites. The school feeding scheme is not addressing the fears of the whites. The plans on the housing project are not addressing the fears of the whites. When I invited, on 23 July, more than 1,000 veterans of the struggle, we were not addressing the fears of the whites. We are saying to those who have brought about these changes—come and see the achievement that you have made. Here is the center of the regime

which concocted crimes against the people of this country. You have now taken over. We have come to thank you for that. You can't say that that is addressing the white fears. Perceptions, of course, are there. If you are talking about perceptions, not facts, it may well be that you have a case, but if you are basing yourself on facts, you have no reason to say we are concentrating on assuring the whites and neglecting the interests, the needs of the people who put us into power.

It is necessary for us to keep this balance, to address the basic needs of the masses of the people; it is also necessary for us to bring about this unity by assuring all population groups without exception that this is their country, that no one of them is going to be victimized for the crimes of the past. That is absolutely necessary, to stop this emigration of skills and technology which took place before the election because the people were not sure what the policy of a democratic government is going to be.

[Mashokwe] Mr. President, the question on perception really wants to say to you, nothing has changed in the life of a squatter, he still lives here, there. One hundred days of the government of national unity—what have you delivered?

[Mandela] Well, if you understand what has to be done in order to address the problems of squatters, then you would not expect that we should have done anything in 100 days. The question of putting up housing schemes, of ensuring that day a person has a house to live in, is not something that can be achieved within 100 days. You are looking at the matter from the point of view of the entire country, and I've spelt out already in my address the areas where plans have been finalized in order to ensure that the building program starts, and it is going to include people in dire need. And of course the people in the squatter camps, in the informal settlements, are among those who are going to benefit from the scheme. But you can't expect that within 100 days we will have built houses for all the people in the informal settlements. I don't think that would be a realistic expectation on the part of anybody.

[Modise] President Mandela, the big story in South Africa recently is that of the crime wave sweeping the country, and it seems like it manifests itself with the killing of the policemen, and ordinary men, women, and children are wondering—if the safety keepers themselves are under attack, then they should be under attack some more, and therefore they are living in terror and fear, and they are looking up to the government to say: when are you protecting us, how are you going to go about it?

[Mandela] The question of protecting any section of the community is one of formulating a plan which will be effective and will stop all these crimes that we have identified. Unless you have got such a scheme, and above all a scheme that involves not just the central government, but the community itself, you cannot succeed. I have already indicated that the government is

looking at this matter—the question of attack on the security forces, of narcotics, of drugs—is looking at them, is coming out with a plan to deal with the situation, and I think we should be satisfied with the fact that government is aware of the seriousness of the situation, and that it is taking steps to deal with the situation. But surely, in a country where the former government concentrated in suppressing political activities, and neglected crime, we are not surprised that the criminals have been able to organize themselves into powerful syndicates where they are on the verge of taking over, and of dictating to the masses of the people how they should behave themselves. Criminals have almost taken over, and in order to deal with that situation we made a carefully thought out plan, and that plan is almost complete, and we are going to come down heavily on all these crime syndicates, and because unless that is done, it is going to be difficult for us to create the environment under which the Reconstruction and Development Program can take off.

[Mashokwe] Mr. President, the first 10 days, what has given you the most hope in setting out the political and the economic problems of the country?

[Mandela] The unity in the government of national unity, the positive response from all population groups to the Reconstruction and Development Program. It is no longer a program of any particular party. It is now a program for the entire country. Every political party, every individual can now say with confidence: This is my program to better the lives of our people, and this is a critical issue before the country. It has given me hope that the people of South Africa know what is in the interest of the country as a whole.

[Venter] Mr. President, it struck me that during your speech today there was one spontaneous outburst of applause in the course of the speech, and that is when you said that in the civil service you would attempt to narrow the wage gap between lowly-paid workers and the very highly-paid members of the civil service. So salaries is the central issue, and I might observe with some mischief that the same gap exists between MP's and cabinet ministers. Might I ask you this, the ANC MP's give a portion of their salaries to the party, and you yourself make a contribution of your salary to what is essentially a charitable fund, the President's Fund. The question is this, that money that is used to pay MP's is taxpayers' money, is public money. Is it right that that money should be diverted—even a small portion of it—to a political party?

[Mandela] Once an individual is paid his salary, it is no longer taxpayers' money. It's his money. He can do with it what he likes, and I don't think it will be fair to regard that as taxpayer's money. In actual fact even from that angle these are taxpayers, and therefore they are entitled to have their money back.

[Venter] There's been quite a bit said about salaries in Parliament, salaries of politicians and so on. What is

your view in broad terms about this, do you think that the situation is going to be fine as it is...

[Mandela, interrupting] I discussed this question with Judge Meleket when he came to see me, to brief me what the salary scales are and he started on my salary. I said to her Judge, I think this is too much, and I don't think leaders should live a style which is totally different from the style of the masses of the people who have put them in power. But the judge's reply said you must be very careful before you take that decision, because now you are going to pay tax, and the amount you are going to come out with is almost half your salary, and as far as I am concerned, I would like to take a cut in my salary. But I don't feel confident that I should prescribe to other members of the government, the cabinet, members of parliament, because there is also another aspect that when people cannot come out on their salaries... [changes thought] They have children, they want to build homes where they and their families will be comfortable, and they are unable to come out, the temptation toward corruption is very great, and we must consider and try and balance these issues together, and it is a matter that is highly sensitive, and we should approach it with sensitivity and understanding. And it is easy to say, let us get the same amount that is being received by our people who are doing cleaning. It's easy to say so, but in actual fact we will be creating more complications than bringing about solutions. So this is a matter where we must keep a balance.

[Modise] Maybe that is one subject that we could ask so many questions on, but I would like to move to foreign relations. Apparently there is a report that says that South Africa asked the United States to pay the salaries of the scientists who were involved in the nuclear bomb development program, or to give them jobs. In the same breath America, the United States is calling for the blockade of Cuba, you instructed Foreign Affairs Department not to go with that position, against the same background I'm also adding on the Lesotho situation, where the constitution and Parliament have been suspended. What is South Africa's general foreign affairs against the backdrop of these two scenarios that I have just mentioned?

[Mandela] Well, you must understand that we are largely inhibited by the legacy of the apartheid which embarked on military destabilization and economic sabotage of our neighbors. And we have to think very carefully as to what to do because however justified we may be in intervening, especially militarily, in the internal affairs of other countries, we may be accused of merely carrying on the policy of a government which we sharply criticized, and it seems to me that from the point of view of what is happening in our neighboring states, we have to be very, very careful as to what action we take to deal with that situation. I have been in touch with both President Mokhele as well as King Letsie, trying to bring about an amicable settlement. I continue doing so together with the other leaders in Africa like President Mugabe, President Ketumile Masire who have been in the forefront in

trying to bring about a solution in Lesotho. I will work with them. Insofar as the relations between Cuba and the United States of America, I would urge that they should bring their difference before the world body. That world body is there to help countries to resolve their problems peacefully. I would urge that. We are members of the United Nations, and I would like to make my (effort) in regard to problems that have been identified through an organization which represents the majority of the countries in the world. I would like to make my contribution toward organizations of that nature.

[Modise] And about the nuclear matter, do you know anything that the government is asking the United States to give the scientists jobs or to pay their salary?

[Mandela] That is the matter I was briefed about this morning by the Department of Defense, and we are examining the matter, getting the facts, and I'm not in a position to expect any opinion on that matter, because if I receive a briefing from people like General Meiring, I have to investigate certain aspects and be sure that that briefing allows me to take a firm step on certain aspects of the problems that he brings. And I'm not yet in a position to address that question.

[Mashokwe] Welcome back, and continuing on the last lap of this interview, Mr. President, the next 100 days, what can we expect?

[Mandela] Well, I wouldn't like to be a prophet. All that I would say is that we have laid the cornerstone for a forward movement in the process of addressing the needs of our people and what I would expect is that during the next 100 days it might become more evident through communication with all structures that the government of national unity is ready to deliver on a wide range of issues.

[Mashokwe] The first of September, will the government state machinery be in position to deliver, knowing how slow the bureaucracy works?

[Mandela] Well, we have certainly identified the respects in which we hope to be able to start the process of delivery on 1 September—the question of the school feeding scheme—we have already made some progress in regard to the question of electric connections. I have referred to that in my address. But we have a wide range of other issues which I have already spelt out, which we plan to launch and where plans are either being worked on or have been finalized.

[Venter] Mr. President, on this issue of the delivery, a theme in your speech today was devolving the RDP implementation downward to the provinces, to local government, and to the communities themselves, and then you appealed for those local governments who have not yet implemented transition structures to do so. But we know that there are many of them who simply refuse to do that, particularly in rural areas—white conservatives, town councils. What are you going to do about the local governments who won't cooperate with you?

[Mandela] They are making a serious mistake. We are having discussions with leaders like Dr. Ferdie Hartzenberg, and those discussions are fruitful, and the last time I met Dr. Ferdie Hartzenberg was last week, on Friday last week. We discussed specifically the whole question of local government and we are making progress. I do not think that we should base our opinions and concerns on the politics before the election on 27 April. The whole scenario has changed today and the ability of leaders, even from the rightwing, to see that it is necessary for us to speak out, sit down and sort out our problems, this realization is being widely accepted today, and it's widely accepted even in regard to the problems that emerge from local government.

[Modise] President Mandela, many young South Africans who have gone through Bantu education want to hear the government say—well, on such and such a day we sound the death knell of that type of education—and on top of that the youth today in our communities would like to know in what way can they be made to feel part of this transformation or this change. What can they do to help reconstruct and rebuild their people and their country?

[Mandela] We have a minister of education who is a self-made man, and was able to reach the highest level of academic qualification through his own efforts. He is assisted as director general by Professor Fama Manganyi, a prominent educationist, highly qualified, and a man who has served in the field of education with an impressive record, and they are going into the entire question of restructuring the whole system of education in the country.

[Mashokwe] Mr. President, thanks for talking to us, and thanks Lester and Tim Modise. That was out special broadcast from Tuynhuys. Good night.

HRC Views Violence in New Government's First 100 Days

*MB1808123594 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1145 GMT 18 Aug 94*

[Text] Johannesburg Aug 18 SAPA—Political violence has dropped by two-thirds since the April elections but KwaZulu/Natal remains a problem area, the Human Rights Committee [HRC] of South Africa said on Thursday [18 August]. In a statement reviewing the first 100 days of the Government of National Unity, the HRC said killings were continuing, especially in KwaZulu/Natal where peace initiatives were only now beginning to take root.

It said the marked fall contrasted with the 100 days preceding the new government, when political violence had reached alarming proportions. Between 30 January and 9 May the HRC recorded 1,358 deaths and 2,092 injuries in 1,742 incidents of political violence.

In the 100 days after President Nelson Mandela's inauguration, 457 people were killed and 592 injured in 606 incidents.

The HRC said it was pleased the government had maintained its pre-election commitment to human rights, but noted that some repressive regulations were still in force. "For the first time in South Africa, the government views human-rights policies as a serious priority, but the challenges it is facing are indicative of the problems of transforming apartheid structures."

It said bills to usher in a human-rights framework in South Africa, in the form of the commission on truth and reconciliation, the Human Rights Commission and the Constitutional Court, were expected to be tabled in Parliament during this session.

"However, there are still elements of the Internal Security Act, the Public Safety Act and other laws that are in contradiction to the interim bill of fundamental human rights. Furthermore, the KwaZulu/Natal state of emergency is still in place."

The HRC said there had been no detentions without trial since the elections, and no further unrest areas had been declared. However, deaths and torture in police custody continued and several gatherings had been prohibited and broken up.

Further Details on 'Furious Row' Over Parliamentary Posts

*MB1808185794 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1758 GMT 18 Aug 94*

[Report by Patrick Bulger]

[Text] Cape Town August 18 SAPA—A furious row broke out between the African National Congress and the National Party [NP] on Thursday [18 August] just hours after President Nelson Mandela had praised their co-operation during his 100 days address. The row, over the allocation of chairmanships of parliamentary standing committees, eclipsed President Mandela's speech and led to heated exchanges in the National Assembly between backbenchers of the two major GNU [government of national unity] partners.

At a hastily-convened media conference, deputy president and NP leader, Mr. F. W. de Klerk, accused the ANC of renegeing on an agreement on the chairmanships. He said his party would refuse to take up the chairmanships of committees dealing with internal parliamentary affairs.

He accused the ANC caucus of "pettiness" and said its attitude contrasted with the ANC's public statements on co-operation and reconciliation.

But in the National Assembly, the ANC's Mr. Carl Niehaus said to loud interjections from the NP benches that the NP had to accept that it had lost the election and was no longer in power.

"I can easily say good riddance. We will run them on our own. But I say, reconsider and take the hand of the ANC," Mr. Niehaus said.

Despite the sharp differences, Mr. de Klerk said he would not break ranks with the GNU.

He said the NP would remain in the GNU "provided government acted reasonably and within the spirit of the constitution."

Earlier, ANC chief whip, Rev Arnold Stofile disclosed that the ANC caucus had given itself the chairmanships of 24 parliamentary standing committees that make an input into legislation and government policy.

They include all the key portfolios, except defence which was given to the Freedom Front of Gen Constand Viljoen and public accounts which was given to the Democratic Party.

The NP was given the deputy chairmanship of public accounts and the chairmanship of the committees dealing with Parliament's internal arrangements, discipline and pensions of MP's, and private members' bills.

The first indication that relations between the ANC and the NP had soured came when NP members in the National Assembly were alone in refusing to join the standing ovation given President Mandela as he rose to deliver his eagerly-awaited 100 days speech.

President Mandela had high praise for the GNU and the "enduring national consensus" built up during the 100 days since his inauguration. "This consensus is neither an imposition of one party over others; nor a honeymoon premised on the fickle whims of a fleeting romance. What brings us together is the overriding commitment to a joint national effort to reconcile our nation and improve its well-being."

However, he warned that there were within the GNU "different constituencies with divergent interests" and said there were bound to be differences of approach and emphasis. "To present a facade of unity on each and every issue would be artificial, undemocratic and patently pretentious."

And, in a nod to the caucus which has been reported to have been at odds with his conciliatory approach, President Mandela said he welcomed "open debate" and said "such debate will definitely enrich our body politic."

"This applies equally to debate within parties about how to manage this novel experience."

President Mandela did not enter the later dispute as the debate on the president's vote will continue on Monday before he replies.

De Klerk Rejects Post Allocation

*MB1808184394 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network
in English 1800 GMT 18 Aug 94*

[Text] On the very day that the government of national unity celebrated its first 100 days in office, cracks started appearing. Deputy President F.W. de Klerk chose today

to return to party politics and lashed out at the ANC over its allocation of the chairmanship of parliamentary committees.

[Begin recording] [SABC reporter Dennis Cruywagen] A row which has been simmering for weeks boiled over at a news conference today when Mr. De Klerk, who is also the leader of the National Party [NP], warned about the power wielded by the ANC caucus. The row concerned the ANC's offer of the chairmanship of only four standing committees in the National Assembly to the National Party. It's an offer the NP regards as inadequate.

[De Klerk] The National Party is not anxious about posts and positions. We're not in politics for that. We reject the proposal of the ANC, which is clearly intended to hurt the National Party, which is clearly intended to put the National Party at a disadvantage, and we will not fill any of the positions as proposed.

[Cruywagen] The dispute spilled over into the National Assembly where ANC MP Carl Niehaus flatly rejected the National Party's claim.

[Niehaus] But we will not do it with peevishness. We will not do it because the National Party has not yet got used to the fact that they have lost this election, that they are a 20 percent party. [applause]

[Cruywagen] Today's harsh exchange of words appears to have signalled the end of what many have described as the new government's honeymoon period. [end recording]

Mandela, Deputies on Country's Future

MM1807101094 London *FINANCIAL TIMES* in English 18 Jul 94 p 11 of supplement devoted to South Africa

[Interview with President Nelson Mandela and Deputy Presidents Thabo Mbeki and F.W. de Klerk, by Patti Waldmeir and Michael Holman; place and date not given]

[Text] [FINANCIAL TIMES] Why should FINANCIAL TIMES readers invest in South Africa?

[Mandela] South Africa is potentially a rich country ... with developed infrastructure, modern ports, a sophisticated banking system, a telecommunications system. It can be a powerhouse for the southern African region.

Investors in this country are likely to derive maximum benefit, far more than investing in other areas. South Africa is far more advanced than any of our neighbouring states and therefore to invest in this country you will be helping to raise the living standards of not only the people in South Africa, but in the southern African region.

[FINANCIAL TIMES] Why invest in South and southern Africa rather than East Asia?

[Mandela] We have taken precautions to ensure that investors have a maximum return for their investments. Nationalisation was a fundamental part of ANC policy. But in order to attract investments it was clear to us that we had to make a very significant shift; if we did not, we would not get investments. There will be no expropriation of foreign investments. Investors will be free to repatriate dividends and if an investor sells his business, he will be able to export those proceeds. We believe in keeping our tax rate low so as to attract foreign investment. That's a decided advantage...

[FINANCIAL TIMES] What are the prospects for a social contract in South Africa?

[Mandela] I don't know if I would call it a social contract. But there is an agreement between labour, capital and the government. The harmony that exists between ourselves in the ANC and big business is striking. The support we have had from business, had it not been for that support ... we probably would not have had such a landslide victory.

[FINANCIAL TIMES] Are you surprised at the degree of powers claimed by provincial premiers?

[Mandela] Our own people are demanding some form of federalism. Whereas it was the Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] Chief Buthelezi, the National Party of Mr de Klerk that was demanding it. Now it is our own people demanding independence from the central government. We are happy about that. All that we're concerned about is that there should be free movement of goods, services, capital and labour.

[FINANCIAL TIMES] Why did you decide on a government of national unity [GNU], and will it continue after the five years set out in the constitution?

[Mandela] There is a long history here, starting from our experiences in prison. The moment we arrived at Robben Island, there was debate amongst Afrikaner warders, some saying let's treat these people harshly so they must respect white supremacy, others saying ... we must treat them in such a way that when they win it should not be a government of retribution. We adopted a policy of talking to the warders and persuading them to treat us as human beings.

[FINANCIAL TIMES] And that is a lesson that one of our strongest weapons is dialogue. It has been a very powerful weapon. Our people accepted this, because throughout the history of the ANC, the idea of nation-building, of a nonracial society, has been uppermost. And we have now implemented that through a government of national unity. So far as continuing this government after five years, we have an open mind; we're very flexible.

[FINANCIAL TIMES] Could you articulate your vision of the RDP [Reconstruction and Development Program]?

[Mandela] Well, it wants to address the basic needs of the masses of the people: to ensure that our people lead a better life, to ensure that everybody has a job; that everybody lives in a decent house; that there is free, quality education; that there is electricity in every home; clean, healthy, running water; that there are sporting and recreation centres; that there are paved roads in our areas.

But the RDP also addresses the question of nation-building. (Through the RDP) we are appealing to whites. Remain in our country, don't take away your skills. The RDP is intended not only to address the basic needs of the majority, it is actually to set the minority free, free from fear of retribution. It is a programme to transform the whole South African society.

[FINANCIAL TIMES] A Truth Commission in a country where the previous government still holds power is unusual. Do you worry such a commission might, as deputy president De Klerk has warned, prove divisive?

[Mandela] The ANC has twice the combined strength of the IFP and the National Party, so if we wanted to we could just run the government, but we are not doing that. We are committed to making the government of national unity something which has got a substantive content. As far as the Truth Commission is concerned, we have made it clear that we have no intention of retribution. We are doing this in order to heal the wounds of the past. People must know what crimes were committed and that we have forgiven those crimes.

[FINANCIAL TIMES] Is the spirit of national unity strong enough to survive these pressures?

[Mandela] Recently I went to the most powerful congregation of the Dutch Reformed Church [DRC] in Pretoria. There was a time where if you went to the DRC, you would need a whole police force to protect you from being attacked. They needed a police force to protect me from the love of the people. You would think I was in Soweto. Everybody wanted to touch me. And the whole idea of national unity has attracted a positive response from all segments of the population.

[FINANCIAL TIMES] Aren't you in danger of not satisfying your (black) constituency at the end of your first year?

[Mandela] This is a process. The people are justified in having these exaggerated expectations when they see whites enjoying rights and opportunities that are denied them. From inside the country, forces are being mobilised to enable us to start this programme.

I can assure you, as we said during the elections, that we promise no miracles. We want you to understand that it is going to take time for us to mobilise the resources ... But what is important is that a few days after a new cabinet was set up, the process of trying to address problems started, and I can tell you that the co-operation in the GNU is impressive.

[FINANCIAL TIMES] Don't you underestimate the role of the front-line states in ending apartheid?

[Mandela] That, actually, I don't agree with. The people—men, women and children—inside South Africa who came out into the streets, called strikes; stayaways, who were shot and killed by the racist South African Police; they are the people who kept the fires burning, and eventually brought down tyrants.

[FINANCIAL TIMES] When do you think the NP (National Party) finally realised that it was majority rule or nothing?

[Mandela] You can't put a date and say on the particular day they realised; gradually, they came to accept that majority rule was unavoidable. But you must understand that it takes a long time for concepts to be accepted because even now, without in any way being discourteous to the NP, they still think that they are in the majority because they would like us to consult them on everything we do.

But de Klerk is a man who means well and when we point out to him: "Look, don't go too far, we are the majority party," he accepts that.

Mandela To Undergo Treatment on Left Eye

MB1808215094 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2138 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Cape Town Aug 18 SAPA—President Nelson Mandela will undergo treatment to his left eye in Sandton on Friday [19 August], his spokesman Parks Mankahlana said on Thursday. The president's ophthalmologist, Dr. Percy Amoils, will remove two stitches from the eye during what is expected to be a brief consultation at a sandton clinic.

The president will also have some cloudiness removed from his eye to improve his vision.

Mr. Mandela interrupted his 100 days address to Parliament several times on Thursday to remove his spectacles and wipe his eyes. He joked to MP's he was doing so to hold their attention.

The president will be back in Cape Town on Monday when the debate on the president's vote will resume in Parliament.

Judicial Cooperation Agreement Signed With Zimbabwe

MB1808185594 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1546 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Parliament August 18 SAPA—South Africa and Zimbabwe on Thursday [18 August] signed a comprehensive agreement on judicial co-operation. The agreement, a product of deliberations between a joint South African/Zimbabwean committee established in March, was signed in Cape Town by Justice Minister Dullah

Omar and Zimbabwe's minister of legal and parliamentary affairs, Mr. Emmerson Munangagwa.

Its provisions include the reciprocal enforcement of maintenance orders and civil judgements, action to combat child abduction across international borders and the confiscation of profits from cross-border crime such as drug trafficking, arms smuggling and car theft.

The two governments also undertook to promote agreement on an extradition treaty.

At a press conference, Mr. Munangagwa said the existing agreement between Commonwealth states, in terms of which suspects may be extradited after bilateral consultation, was considered a "simpler method" in the interim. He described the agreement as a "landmark," which laid the foundation for further co-operation between South Africa and Zimbabwe in the administration of justice.

The Zimbabwean minister said the international focus on human rights made it necessary for countries to ensure their domestic legislation complied with international human rights standards.

Mr. Omar said South Africa welcomed international monitoring of its legislation "to assist us in living up to the standards of the international community."

South Africa would act immediately to implement the provisions of the agreement and amend existing legislation where necessary.

Mr. Omar said discussions had also centred on the establishment of a southern African legal forum to facilitate co-operation on judicial matters between states in the region.

Paper Labels RDP Plan 'Revolutionary'

MB1808073394 Pretoria DIE AFRIKANER in Afrikaans 5-11 Aug 94 p 3

[Text] The ANC's RDP [Reconstruction and Development Program] is being held out as a bona fide reconstruction and development plan deserving of general support. It was, however, identified a long time ago as a mere bonus plan for blacks: Now that the ANC is in the government seat, the country's wealth has to be divided through the RDP plan among those who won the election; that's what it is. It is the American principle of "spoils" [preceding word in English], according to which the little government posts are divided among the party's supporters after an election. In South Africa, however, it goes much further than just about little state posts. It has to do with the country's wealth, although the principle remains the same.

First Deputy President Thabo Mbeki last week addressed the black chamber of business at a Transkei holiday resort. The RDP is in reality a revolution within a revolution, he said. It is a revolutionary way to uplift those who have suffered under apartheid. They deserve

it. The government will donate a gigantic amount from the budget toward it, all companies desiring the support of the ANC state have to contribute toward it.

Mbeki insisted that schemes were being developed to "persuade" the white business sector to contribute liberally to the RDP, because thereby the needs of black businessmen who need cheap capital will be covered.

Banks are asking black businessmen impossible rates and want to force them into subjecting themselves to all sorts of control by bank managers. The RDP will provide all the capital needed by the black businessmen, at lower rates and without the humiliating control.

The RDP plan is therefore a revolutionary scheme to uplift all those who were oppressed, Mr. Mbeki said.

End Conscription Campaign Announces Immediate Disbanding

MB1908082294 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in Afrikaans 0430 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] The End Conscription Campaign [ECC] has announced that it will disband immediately. This follows an announcement by Defense Minister Joe Modise that call-up offenders will not be prosecuted. The ECC says that it wanted to suspend its activities at the end of last year when compulsory national service was scrapped but that the army still continued to issue call-up papers for military service, threatening offenders with prosecution.

South African Press Review for 18 Aug

MB1808123294

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Problems Over Permanent African Seat at UN—Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 18 August in a page 10 editorial notes that Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe "is unhappy with the 'lack of democratic principles' in the UN. His complaint is that the Security Council is dominated by its five permanent members (the U.S., P.R. China, Britain and France), each of which has an absolute veto." His criticism, made during his address to the South African Parliament on 16 August, "comes amid ongoing pressure for a permanent African seat on the Security Council." THE STAR agrees with Mugabe that to give five powers an absolute veto in a consultation with over 150 members "is inherently undemocratic." However, "to press for a permanent African voice might create more problems than it solves." "Which African country would get the seat? If Africa is guaranteed a seat, why not South America, Central America, Australasia or the Pacific Rim countries?"

BUSINESS DAY

'Avoidance of Crisis' in Mandela's First 100 Days—In its first 100 days in office, "Mandela's government has

done better than expected and the past three months give cause for hope, not gloom," declares a page 14 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 18 August. "Certainly tangible successes are few and far between. Homes have not been built, the jobless queues have lengthened, we are in the season of labour unrest, the foreign investment boom has not materialised and the economy is growing too slowly to bring prosperity in the near future." "The avoidance of crisis may in fact be the major achievement of Mandela's first 100 days. After the euphoria of our miracle election, it is easy to forget that Mandela inherited a country on the verge of civil war. He has set a tone of reconciliation which has gone a long way to calming deadly emotions in Natal and around Witwatersrand hostels; he has persuaded the militant white right to think more of negotiation than confrontation; and he has a public service, including the police and the military, which is more co-operative and supportive than recalcitrant. A fractious people, with

two anthems and a funny flag, are not yet one nation, but they are coming to accept the compromises inherent in the democratic transition."

SOWETAN

Criticism of Lesotho King's Nullification of Constitution—"South Africa cannot afford to sit idly by and watch the situation deteriorate further in Lesotho," declares a page 10 editorial in Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 18 August. "The nullification of the constitution by so-called King Letsie III should not be tolerated. South Africa should step in without delay and put those thugs to flight." "The Basotholand Congress Party of Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle last year won a landslide victory, wiping out the rival Basotholand National Party [BNP]. The BNP, using elements in the army and the puppet Letsie, are now trying to achieve by violence and intrigue what they failed to get through the ballot box."

Angola

Commentary Criticizes U.S. for Supporting Embargo

*MB1808150194 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo
Negro in Portuguese 1200 GMT 18 Aug 94*

[Station commentary: "The diabolical and Machiavellian nature of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party and the support given by the current U.S. administration"]

[Text] The Zambian capital has been the scene of Angolan peace and national reconciliation talks for the last nine months. Those talks have taken place between the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party, MPLA-PT, government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, UNITA, the biggest real opposition party in Angola. UNITA has justified its insistence on continued dialogue. It has asked for good faith on the part of the MPLA-PT because the diabolical and Machiavellian plans of the Luanda regime and its stateless Creoles to destroy UNITA have not been shelved yet. Those plans are still very much in force.

In the wake of the signing of the peace accord on 31 May 1991, and the subsequent movement of UNITA militants into the urban centers we, in UNITA, were already aware that our enemy was not good natured. We had never imagined, though, that the Creoles in the MPLA-PT could be as cruel as they turned out to be when they unleashed their political and tribal genocide on 31 October 1992. Those MPLA-PT Creoles are so cruel and sadistic that they had no shame and proceeded to show on the People's Television of Angola, TPA, scenes of cruel and unnecessary violence against senior officials, cadres, militants, and sympathizers of the UNITA Party, all because those people supported UNITA.

Irrespective of the time that such a process may take, a precise and carefully thought out analysis of the issues being discussed in Lusaka is an obligatory condition for not repeating the mistakes made in Alvor and Bicesse.

We have always expressed our appreciation and gratitude for the contributions other governments and foreign organizations have made toward peace and toward a resolution of the Angolan conflict. It was for that reason that the UNITA Political Commission praised and thanked Zambian President Frederick Chiluba for his personal contribution. The Zambian head of state sent a team to Huambo with optional proposals on the governorship of Huambo Province.

We have sufficient reason to appreciate and believe in the imaginative contribution South African President Nelson Mandela can give the Angolan peace process. This is why the meeting between Presidents Nelson Mandela and Jonas Savimbi is being prepared with such great attention to detail. However, just as we appreciate valuable contributions toward a resolution of the Angolan problem, we condemn just as energetically the note sent by the present occupant of the White House to

the U.S. Congress. In it, he proposed the continuation of the arms and oil embargo which the international community imposed on UNITA on 26 September 1993. To us, in UNITA, the remarks by the present occupant of the White House, that UNITA is an extraordinary threat to U.S. foreign policy, reflect a lack of good sense. Such statements by the president of the world's sole superpower at this stage can only allow us to conclude that the present occupant of the White House only believes in democracy for the United States.

UNITA, in turn, is expected to accept such remarks on bended knee and say amen to everything the international community wishes to burden it with, even though UNITA's very disappearance may be at stake. The end of the Lusaka peace talks is near and those are the indications in the air. The note by the White House's current occupant seeks to sabotage those talks and it is tantamount to a previously cleared check that has been given to the MPLA-PT. It endorses the electoral fraud of September 1992, the political and tribal genocide that began on 31 October 1992, and the bloody Friday of 22 January 1992 [as heard]. What is more, it gives the go ahead for the MPLA-PT to continue purchasing all types of war materiel—including the poor man's atomic bomb—drafting mercenaries, and making every effort to do away with the real opposition in Angola, and so forth. Those are the supreme wishes of the sellouts of the Angolan fatherland in the ranks of the MPLA-PT.

When Mr. Edmund DeJarnette, U.S. ambassador in Luanda, made his remarks on 8 August, he had the support of the current occupant of the White House. Ambassador DeJarnette's subsequent apology to the UNITA team in Lusaka on 9 August amounted to crocodile tears that impressed no one at all. Those tears were part of an operation to charm UNITA. We, in UNITA, are the real sons of Angola. We have long known how to cry without tears. We would like to remind the occupant of the White House in Washington that Chevron Oil Company is the biggest sucker [as heard] of Angolan oil yet and, to date, the glorious Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola, FALA, have never attacked U.S. economic interests in Angola.

The real children of Angola will never agree to be the slaves of Angola's wealth in general, and oil in particular, that oil which the United States so covets. We [repeated three times] are the ones who say what is to be done in our own land.

Long live UNITA!

Long live Dr. Jonas Malheiro Savimbi!

United we shall triumph!

U.S. Position on Embargo Noted

*MB1808152894 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in
Portuguese 1200 GMT 18 Aug 94*

[Text] The United States considers Jonas Savimbi's organization as, we quote, an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States, unquote. Thus, President Bill Clinton who said this, has written to

the Congress, announcing the decision to renew the arms and oil embargo against the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA]. The embargo was imposed by the international community on 26 September 1993. Bill Clinton said the suspension of these sanctions would have a prejudicial effect on the Angolan peace process. The ideal thing is to maintain the embargo. The UN Security Council also thinks in the same way and goes further. It will be recalled that during his last statement on Angola, the chairman of the UN Security Council had a message for UNITA: If until the end of this month, it does not accept the proposal from the mediators and observers on national reconciliation, the second package of sanctions will be imposed against it.

Foreign Spokesman's Reaction

MB1808153694 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1200 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Foreign Ministry spokesman Nercio Cadete said the U.S. decision to renew the arms and oil embargo against the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] is a stand that can influence the course of negotiations.

[Begin Cadete recording] We view this stand as a proof of the U.S. commitment to the UN Security Council resolution on UNITA. The imposition of sanctions is contemplated in UN Security Council resolutions [words indistinct]. In view of its responsibility in the international community and as a member of the troika as well as in its (?work) in the Angolan process, the U.S. administration notified the Congress about the renewal of sanctions against UNITA. In brief, we view this as another proof of the U.S. administration commitment to the Angolan process. [end recording]

UNITA Views U.S. Embargo as 'Formal Measure'

LD1808175594 Lisbon RDP Antena 1 Radio Network in Portuguese 1600 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] has reacted to the arms and oil embargo imposed by the United States. Clinton justified his decision by stating that UNITA represented a threat to U.S. foreign policy. UNITA representative in New York, Marcos Samondo, down-played Clinton's justification:

[Begin Samondo recording] The embargo had to be renewed because it expired at the end of one year. It was imposed last year by the Security Council and according to U.S. legislation, the embargo deadline is now over and therefore the American president has—according to the law—to communicate to Congress that the embargo has to continue. For it to extend, also according to the law, he has to state why the embargo must be extended. The formal language used in the United States to justify an embargo against an organization is to say that the organization is a threat. Therefore, this is

purely and simply a formal measure, which has nothing to do with interpretation of political events of which we are well aware. [end recording]

Opposition Views Clinton Stand on UNITA

MB1908065294 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Representatives of the unarmed Angolan opposition today reacted with some skepticism to President Bill Clinton's letter to the U.S. Congress. They said that peace in Angola depends on the Angolan people themselves, adding that the experiences of the Angolan people make them doubt ordered solutions. Afonso Maituka [not further identified] had this to say:

[Maituka] "If this letter is indeed aimed at bringing peace to our country, then it is most welcome."

In turn, Filomeno V. Lopes, of the Front for Democracy, FPD, commented on it as follows:

[Lopes] "I do not know how much influence the United States has on UNITA today in order to be able to exert pressure on UNITA to follow the path of peace. Seeing that only 5 percent of the items under discussion at the talks needs to be settled, it seems to us that any pressure at this point must naturally be delicate."

Daniel Chipenda, an independent member of the opposition, conveyed the following impressions:

[Chipenda] "I do not believe that sanctions will settle the Angolan problem. We have these problems in our hands and we must know how to be flexible. No one from outside will be able to resolve our problems. It is up to us, the Angolan people, to deal with our problems."

Opposition Parties End Round Table Meeting

MB1908071094 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] The proceedings of the round table organized by the civilian opposition ended less than one hour ago. During three days the representatives from more than (?16) opposition political parties spoke of all kinds of irregularities in the country, particularly the war. Criticisms and suggestions were presented at the meeting. The major news at the meeting was a nonaggression agreement among the Angolan people. They condemned the war, corruption, and the state of misery facing the majority of our people. Ngola Kabango, permanent secretary of the Angola National Liberation Front, read the conclusions of the round table:

[Begin Kabango recording] The round table decided to propose to the nation the following:

1. To urge the government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] to sign a general peace accord.

2. To demand that the cease-fire should also be monitored by the joint living [as heard] forces of Angola.
3. To demand the urgent holding of a peace and national reconciliation conference to guarantee political stability and the unity of the Angolan nation.
4. To draw up a national agreement of nonaggression among the Angolan people and the solution of conflicts through peaceful and political means.
5. To laud as well as to encourage humanitarian organizations to continue with their noble mission to assist the needy in areas affected by war. [end recording]

UNITA Admits Government Captured Canfunfo Area

MB1808174994 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] has officially recognized that it has lost control over the strategic diamond-rich area of Canfunfo. It was from this area that UNITA mined the diamonds that helped it wage war on the Angolan Government. Cuango Valley, which contributes some 90 percent of all national diamond production, is in the Canfunfo area.

UNITA Still Arranging Savimbi Meeting With Mandela

MB1908091694 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0849 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] Johannesburg Aug 19 SAPA—UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] says it won't be months before its leader Jonas Savimbi meets President Nelson Mandela, SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news reported on Friday [19 August]. UNITA's spokesman in Washington, Jardo Muskalia, told reporters that his party was still working on arranging the meeting. He also claimed that the chairman of the South African company Executive Outcomes, Mr. Eben Barlow, met on Thursday in Luanda with Angolan General Staff to plan an offensive against UNITA before the South African Government takes action against the company. Mr. Barlow denied that he was in Angola this week.

Government, UNITA Wait for New Document From Mediators

MB1808200994 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] In Lusaka, the negotiators are waiting for the mediating team to present them with a new intermediate document concerning the UN Angola Verification Mission [Unavem]-3's mandate, the role of the observer countries, and the mechanism that will replace the Joint Political and Military Commission, CCPM. Alves Antonio, our correspondent in Lusaka, reports:

[Begin Antonio recording] The representatives of the government and of the National Union for the Total

Independence of Angola [UNITA] are waiting for the mediating team to produce a new intermediate document on the issues now on the negotiating table, notably the Unavem-3's mandate, the role of the observer countries, and the mechanism that will replace the CCPM. There continue to be differences in the positions defended by each of the negotiators, so Alioune Blondin Beye, special representative of the UN secretary general in Angola, is trying to bridge the gap so the two sides can start talking along the same lines.

Should the government and UNITA teams receive that document this evening, they will have the opportunity to respond tomorrow and then discussions on those matters can begin.

Meanwhile, UNITA has not said anything yet about the mediating team's proposal concerning its future role in government. Political observers in the capital believe UNITA could be remaining tightlipped because of an eventual meeting between UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi and South African President Nelson Mandela. [end recording]

Government Forces Thwart UNITA Attack at Quilengues

MB1808210394 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Excerpt] While politicians propose political solutions for the country's crisis, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] is still determined to continue with the war. This was evident at Quilengues in Huila Province where UNITA troops tried to overrun the district. However, the Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] thwarted the action. Unable to confront FAA forces they turned their wrath on civilians. [passage omitted]

Lesotho

King Letsie Strips Cabinet Members of Possessions

MB1808173794 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in Afrikaans 1600 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] King Letsie III has instructed Lesotho's soldiers to confiscate personal possessions belonging to cabinet members. The instruction follows yesterday's statement by the king that he was suspending parts of the constitution and dissolving Lesotho's cabinet.

Maseru was calm today after four people had been shot during demonstrations yesterday. The king is setting up a council which will govern Lesotho within a week. The king [as heard] has rejected King Letsie's utterances as bizarre and said he will continue to run the country unhindered. A curfew has been enforced in Maseru and soldiers and policemen are patrolling the streets.

Dismissed Foreign Minister Views King's Actions

MB1808141594 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1351 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Maseru Aug 18 SAPA—The foreign minister of Lesotho's deposed Basotholand Congress Party on

Thursday [18 August] dismissed the suspension of part of the constitution and the dissolution of the government by King Letsie III on Wednesday as irrelevant, SAPA's correspondent reported. At a press conference in Maseru, Minister Molapo Qhobelala said before Parliament could be dissolved it had to first be formally convened and notice published in an extraordinary Government Gazette.

Mr. Qhobelala said he could not comment on the position of the security forces but that the Defence Commission, consisting of the army commander, police commissioner, the chief of national security and their deputies had met both the king and Prime Minister Ntse Mokhehle on Wednesday.

Mr. Qhobelala said some official cars used by BCP ministers had been confiscated but he did not elaborate.

Commenting on the death of four BCP supporters while demonstrating outside the royal palace on Wednesday, he said his party had no intention of letting the matter rest. "The law will take its course," he said.

Mozambique

IMF Praises 'Strong Potential' for Economic Development

MB1808153894 Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 16 Aug 94 p 8

[Unattributed report: "IMF publication says Mozambique making efforts to stabilize economy"]

[Excerpt] Mozambique received special attention in this month's edition of the IMF's "SURVEY" publication. The article highlights the efforts made by this country to stabilize its economy and transform it into a market economy, despite the fact that the process of transition is still under way.

The article says that the country's "per capita" income is \$80, one of the lowest in the world, but it adds that the country has recorded a surprising growth rate of 19 percent this year.

The IMF's "SURVEY" publication explained that this paradox reflects the fact that the Mozambican economy is only now beginning to make use of its strong potential.

The country's production and export levels are still below those achieved in the 1970's, tilled land represents only 10 percent of the country's 36 million hectares of arable land, and the energy output of Cahora Bassa Dam—one of the biggest hydroelectric schemes in the world—is still far below its capacity.

In line with what the World Bank had said, the IMF also points out that the country has considerable potential for development in the fisheries, mining, and industrial sectors. [passage omitted]

Swaziland

Foreign Ministry Appoints New Permanent Secretary

MB1908080294 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English 19 Aug 94 p 1-2

[Article by Muzi Masuku]

[Text] Journalist Mr. Mduduzi Magongo has been appointed Principal Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The appointment is with effect from Tuesday [16 August] this week and was announced by Secretary to Cabinet Mr. Frank Buckhum. He takes over from the late Mr. Norman Zombodze Malinga.

Mr. Magongo had been the Head of the Department of Tourism in the Ministry of Broadcasting Information and Tourism.

Born on 28th April 1950, the 44-year-old Mr. Magongo entered the Civil Service in 1972—then proceeded to Ghana where he did a two year diploma in Journalism.

He again left the country—this time for London where he did a six-month course in administration of government information services—sponsored by the British Council.

In 1977 he came back to work at the Information department where he rose up the ranks—until he became Deputy Head of Information under the late Mr. Roy Dlodlu.

He was transferred to the Tourism department in 1983—until his recent appointment.

He worked for a long time at SBIS [Swaziland Broadcasting Information Service] and was presenting the musical programme "Saturday Club" where he went under the name "Sweet Mdu."

He remembers the days at the SBIS newsroom, saying it was during his time that the present newsroom was created and structured. At the time, he also edited the siSwati publication "Umbiki" as well as "Swaziland Today" magazine with Mr. Prince Makhubu—and worked on the project to have Swaziland having her own news agency.

In all, he has been in tourism for more than 10 years.

Asked his reaction about the new appointment, Mr. Magongo said: "I am still shocked because I am not a person who was aspiring for such a post.

"I had fallen in love with promoting the country in tourism and we had gone a long way in re-structuring the tourism industry in the country."

Benin

Alleged Coup Plotter Interviewed in Hiding on Trial

LD1808212094 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] The trial of 27 army men accused of being involved in a plot against the state is continuing in Benin. Let me remind you that the events date back to March 1992 [as heard]. The hearings for the 27 defendants resumed this morning after a day's break. Only 11 of them are present. All the others are on the run, including Captain Tawes, the brains behind the plot. He escaped in August 1992, and he has gone underground since then. Donaig Le Du succeeded in contacting him by telephone this morning. She asked him: Why are you refusing to attend this trial?

[Begin Tawes recording] It is for reasons of personal safety. I have done what I could to be present in the witness stand and answer for what I am being accused, but the judicial structures of my country have not made provision for my safety to be guaranteed. You know that I am being accused of having fomented a coup d'etat against the regime of President Soglo. I have nothing to reproach myself for in connection with this business. I proclaim my innocence. Since it is a matter on which people do not want me to speak out, however, nothing is being done to make it possible for me to appear in court.

I have referred the matter to the judicial structures of my country. I have referred the matter to the parliament and the Constitutional Court. I tell you that the Constitutional Court has already given me an answer, which was sent to my address in Cotonou. I have a copy of their letter of reply. They told me that it is not within their jurisdiction to make a pronouncement on my case. The other investigating structures, such as the parliament and the supreme court, and the different political parties have not reacted. In such a climate, I cannot come, because I do not know on whom I can count. [end recording]

Cote d'Ivoire

Cocoa Production Estimated To Decrease 20 Percent

AB0708164094 Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 4-10 Aug 94 p 10

[From the "Focus" column; quotation marks as published]

[Excerpt] According to the International Cocoa Organization [ICO], the Ivorian cocoa harvest for the 1994-95 season will not exceed 715,000 metric tonnes, representing a 20-percent reduction in relation to the current harvest, which is estimated at 840,000 metric tonnes. "Unduly optimistic, market circles point out. ICO is not taking into consideration the lack of rain on Ivorian cocoa plantations." The rain deficit recorded since May distorts all the estimates. "The lack of rain in the southwest region—which accounts for more than 50 percent of national production—might lead to a delay in budding that will thus jeopardize the

major harvest, which begins in October, an official from the Raw Materials Ministry said with concern." It is however hoped that the return of the rains—it is raining again in the southwest—will at least enable the already formed pods to mature. "We will harvest small beans, the ministry official lamented, but all will not be lost." [passage omitted]

Guinea

Human Rights Association Issues Report for 1993

LD1808192094 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] The Guinean Human Rights Association [AGDH] has published its annual report, which deals with the situation in 1993, described as having been a tragic year for Guinea. The text denounces the increase in cases of torture and ill-treatment, particularly involving common law prisoners. Serge Daniel reports from Conakry:

[Daniel] The prisons of Guinea are reportedly the scene of degrading ill treatment. Between 1991 and 1993, dozens of people are reported to have died there in appalling conditions. It is quite unbearable to read the details contained in the report. In February 1993, two women—one of them pregnant—were shot dead. In May 1993, two women were shot dead during an opposition march. In August 1993, a very wealthy businessman who was tortured died on police premises.

Pointing out flagrant violation after flagrant violation, the AGDH calls on all the political protagonists to respect basic rights. The report also denounces infringements of freedom of expression, citing three examples: journalists tortured or transferred, civil servants not belonging to the presidential movement dismissed or transferred and, finally, members of the RPG [Rally of the Guinean People], the main opposition party, who were—I quote—kidnapped, as they were returning from a consciousness-raising campaign. (?Without any ado) they were arrested and put on trial for disturbing public order and using witchcraft [maraboutage] against the head of state.

Liberia

NPFL Reportedly Attacks LPC Positions, Kills Civilians

AB1808163794 Monrovia Radio ELBC in English 0900 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Reports reaching this station say the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, the NPFL, has attacked positions of the Liberia Peace Council, the LPC, on the (Borkloe) clan, Rivercess County, inflicting injuries on several unarmed civilians and leaving one person dead. According to our correspondent in Buchanan, the civilians who were trying to escape the NPFL advances were met by 15 armed fighters and were maltreated. A survivor of the NPFL (?attack), Mr. Edmund T. Boh, said his left arm was amputated and one of his wives was killed. The third wife, according to him, was pierced in the jaw with

a dagger. Mr. Boh was admitted at the Government Hospital in Buchanan, but was shortly transferred to Monrovia for further treatment.

In a related development, one Mr. Peter Coker, is also presently undergoing intensive medical treatment at the Government Hospital due to injuries he sustained from NPFL fighters.

Meanwhile, the LPC, according to our correspondent, has done worse than the NPFL in looting. They are forcibly taking property from their owners, forcing them to cut their young rice farms and subjecting them to all kinds of inhumane treatment.

PRC Pledges Continued Economic Assistance

AB1808164594 Monrovia Radio ELBC in English 0900 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] The People's Republic of China says it will continue to provide economic assistance to Liberia. Mr. (Liu Quo Quin), the deputy director for foreign aid of the Chinese Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, said the Chinese Government attaches great importance to the relationship with Liberia, noting that his government was working toward strengthening the friendly ties between the two countries. (Liu Quo Quin) made these remarks on Tuesday [16 August] when his seven-man team paid a courtesy call on Youth and Sports Minister Conmany Wesseh at his (New Ford Street) office. The meeting was also attended by Health and Social Welfare Minister Dr. Vamba Kanneh and Public Works Minister Acheaphon Bestman. Mr. (Liu) said his delegation was in the country for an assessment after which the People's Republic intends undertaking the renovation of the S.K. Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville, the construction of the new Health Ministry in Congotown, among others.

Earlier in welcome remarks, Youth and Sports Minister Conmany Wesseh lauded the Chinese Government for its continuous assistance to Liberia and hoped the visit marked a beginning in Sino-Liberia relations.

Nigeria

Partial Relaxation of Ban on Politics Announced

AB1708185394 Lagos NAN in English 1825 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Abuja, 17 Aug (NAN)—The head of state, Gen. Sani Abacha, today in [words indistinct] announced the partial relaxation of the ban on politics to enable individuals and groups to canvass for political ideas and to also demonstrate "commitment [words indistinct]. In a nationwide broadcast, [words indistinct] said that the partial [words indistinct] the efforts of the on-going constitutional conference [words indistinct] veritable prelude to a more successful and vigorous politics [words indistinct]. He, however, [words indistinct] for now, political parties would not be formed until the modalities, as recommended by the conference and approved by the [word indistinct], was announced. "A reasonable period of

renewed healthy political culture needs to be nurtured again in our country leading to the [words indistinct] political parties and elect [word indistinct] into offices," he explained.

Abacha Declares: Government Not To Interfere With Law

AB1708191194 Lagos NAN in English 1832 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Abuja, 17 Aug (NAN)—[Words indistinct] Abiola, now facing a nine-count charge [words indistinct] would be released from detention [words indistinct] have been dashed, a correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIAN (NAN) reports.

[Words indistinct] head of state, Gen. Sani Abacha [words indistinct] in a nationwide broadcast that whatever relief Chief Abiola desired would be appropriately handled by the [word indistinct], if such relief was properly sought. "Government [words indistinct] should not interfere in the court process," Gen. Abacha declared, adding: [passage indistinct] [Words indistinct], Chief Abiola perpetuated acts which breached the laws of the land and government in [words indistinct] never gave him serious attention. "His most recent action was [that] of declaring himself president and commander-in-chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, inciting the public to insurrection and attempting to topple the government by force with a view to installing himself [words indistinct] stated.

The head of state added that the steps taken by the law enforcement agents were legitimate exercises [words indistinct] election had been freely discussed, fully canvassed at the national constitutional conference," pointing out that such was the spirit to be taken to salvage the nation from its present [words indistinct].

'Hundreds' of Youths Stage Peaceful Protest in Kaduna

AB1808143494 Paris AFP in English 1326 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Lagos, Aug 18 (AFP)—Hundreds of youths Thursday [18 August] staged a peaceful demonstration in Kaduna city, northern Nigeria, chanting anti-government slogans, witnesses in the city told AFP by telephone.

It is the first public reaction since General Sani Abacha announced late Wednesday in a nationwide broadcast the dissolution of the national and state leadership of the two striking oil unions and the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC).

The demonstrators went round some parts of the city, particularly in Kakuri industrial park, chanting "abinchi muka so," meaning in Hausa language, "it is food we want," said the witnesses.

Abacha, contrary to the expectations of the opposition, unionists and Abiola's supporters, said that the court trial of Chief Moshood Abiola, principal opposition figure, would take its normal process.

Abiola, a Moslem Yoruba millionaire, declared himself last 11 June "president" of the country on the basis of last year's 12 June presidential election which he claimed to have won.

The annulment of that election by the military has plunged the nation into its current political crisis.

NADECO Reacts to Union Sanctions; Abacha Adviser Comments

*AB1808180094 London BBC World Service in English
1515 GMT 18 Aug 94*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Nigeria's military leader, General Sani Abacha, went ahead last night as expected and bashed the country's unions. Oil workers of NUPENG [National Union of petroleum and Natural Gas Workers] and PENGASSAN [Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria] have been on strike for over six weeks. The Nigerian Labor Congress [NLC] has been threatening all-out general strike. They want the release from jail and the installation of Moshood Abiola, the self-proclaimed winner of last year's annulled 12 June elections. Gen. Abacha said a firm no to the unions' demands and announced that he was sacking their executives and putting in administrators. It seems he meant business as Sola Odunfa reports from Lagos:

[Begin recording] [Odunfa] The sanctions against the unions were promptly carried out this morning. Armed policemen have taken over the headquarters offices of the two petroleum workers unions and the NLC in Lagos. The NUPENG offices were locked and policemen stood guard outside turning back all visitors. About 10 armed constables were at the NLC headquarters. There has been no open reaction in Lagos so far today. People only discussed the address in small groups wondering what would happen next. All offices were open but there was little business as most motorists were on the road in search of petrol. The petroleum workers have not resumed work despite last night's order by Gen. Abacha. They seemed to remain loyal to the warning issued by their leaders yesterday that they would not return to work until their political demands are met.

The first formal reaction today came from the opposition group NADECO [National Democratic Coalition]. In a statement in Lagos, NADECO urged Nigerians to remain steadfast in pressing for the revalidation of the 12 June presidential election. The coalition said that it was deceitful for anyone to claim that any election could be organized in Nigeria while the 1993 presidential election remained annulled. [end recording]

Gen. Abacha is certainly taking the bull by the horns with his uncompromising attack on the country's unions and the action overshadowed any trappings of democracy such as the Constitutional Conference. On the line to Abuja Jeremy Skeet asked (Tommy Kime), a special adviser to Gen. Abacha if the measures weren't unconstitutional.

[Begin recording] [(Kime)] Yes, you see, dissolving the union leadership, we are not operating on any constitution as such at this moment in time. Gen. Abacha's administration is here because of the circumstances that have occurred in this country. The union leadership is not being removed, from what I understand, because they are union people. They are being removed because they are doing other things other than what they should be doing as union leaders.

[Skeet] Gen. Abacha has got no authority over the union so he cannot dissolve them, only, solely their national executive and their members can dissolve them and get rid of them as leaders.

[(Kime)] Well, there is an opportunity for them to make that case back to their unions because the administrator who will go there will be organizing fresh elections for new leadership.

[Skeet] So, basically Gen. Abacha can dismiss anybody he likes in Nigeria, can he?

[(Kime)] Well, this is something that has happened because of the circumstances. There is a situation where these people are now tampering or threatening the economic base of this country. So they are being held for economic sabotage actually.

[Skeet] Now, today, the union leaders said they were going underground. They've gone underground. They said they were gonna continue the fight, to continue the strike.

[(Kime)] Well, I am not aware of that. Gen. Abacha has read his statement yesterday and the consequences of going underground, the consequences of sabotage are very well known to all Nigerians. If they do that, it must be that they are prepared to face the consequences.

[Skeet] What are the consequences?

[(Kime)] Well, it is long term in jail if it is proved. This has happened before.

[Skeet] Surely, because of what Gen. Abacha said, these union leaders have no alternative but to go underground.

[(Kime)] Well, you must know that a trade union leader is usually concerned with the welfare of his workers. A trade union is not a political party. The activities of these leaders during the past few weeks have been basically political. You may recall that last two weeks when they called out a general strike, three-quarters of the country refused to go on strike. So what we are doing here, what the head of state is doing is protecting the majority of Nigerian workers who don't want to follow this politically motivated leadership.

[Skeet] Don't you think that Gen. Abacha should take a softly, softly approach rather than a hardline approach? It seems that is putting Nigeria into crisis.

[(Kime)] Well, there is no crisis whatsoever in Nigeria. The only crisis we've had is people attempting to disrupt

the economic base of this country and anyone who sees strikes performed by reckless people to disrupt the mainstay of the economy of a nation as something that should be condoned is unfortunate. [end recording]

Kaduna Residents Reportedly Welcome Abacha Measures

*AB1808180494 Kaduna Radio Nigeria in English
1700 GMT 18 Aug 94*

[Excerpt] A cross section of the public in Kaduna have welcomed the decisions of the Federal Government or the legal and political crisis in the country. Reacting to the broadcast of the head of state, General Sani Abacha, the majority of those interviewed said the dissolution of the NLC [Nigerian Labor Congress] and the two oil unions, NUPENG [National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers] and PENGASSAN [Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria], was long overdue.

The people who spoke to our roving correspondent expressed optimism that government's intervention would restore peace and sanity in the affairs of the country. [passage omitted]

Unions Say Strike Continues, Warn of Further Protests

*AB1808181194 Paris AFP in English 1734 GMT
18 Aug 94*

[By Jacques Pinto]

[Excerpts] Lagos, Aug 18 (AFP)—Oil union leaders vowed to continue their strike Thursday [18 August] and rejected a military order dissolving the unions' executive councils, warning that protests would escalate.

The union stance was backed by a militant wing of the opposition representing about 40 pro-democracy and human rights' organisations which called on the strikers "not to weaken," a communique released Thursday said. The Campaign for Democracy (CD) called on Nigerians to make the country "ungovernable" by the military. "No force can defeat the will of the people," the communique said.

The Committee for the Defence of Human Rights (CDHR) said the military statement was "laden with fallacy and vituperation," and amounted to nothing but "a declaration of war against the Nigerian people."

The decision to dissolve the unions' leadership was announced late Wednesday by the leader of the country's military junta, General Sani Abacha. [passage omitted]

There were fears that the action by the military against the unions and its failure to release the jailed Moshood Abiola, the presumed winner of last year's elections, could provoke renewed protests.

Abacha, contrary to the expectations of the opposition, unions and Abiola's supporters, said that Abiola's

treason trial would continue normally. He had been expected to announce the unconditional release of Abiola and other political detainees. [passage omitted]

The increasing tensions pushed up international oil prices, with the barrel of Brent, the benchmark North Sea crude, climbing in London early Thursday to 17.10 dollars from 16.50 dollars the previous day.

Lagos streets were quiet Thursday and many businesses remained closed due to concerns over possible riots. [passage omitted]

In the city of Benin in the southwest Wednesday, demonstrators protesting Abiola's continued detention reportedly caused extensive damage to homes belonging to Labour Minister Samuel Ogbemudia.

Press reports said equipment belonging to the government-owned radio and television stations in the city were also damaged and many shops looted or vandalised. There has been no official confirmation of the incidents.

Abacha seized power in November last year from a non-elected civilian administration appointed by his predecessor, General Ibrahim Babangida. He then banned all political parties and dissolved all the country's elected institutions.

University of Benin Closed After Disturbances

*AB1808203594 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in
English 1800 GMT 18 Aug 94*

[Text] The University of Benin has been closed down following disturbances in the Edo State capital yesterday. A statement by the institution asked the students to vacate the campus today. It adds that the closure marks the end of the first semester for the current academic session.

Government Names New NLC, Union Administrators

*AB1808214294 Lagos NTA Television Network in
English 2000 GMT 18 Aug 94*

[Text] Government has appointed sole administrators and secretaries for the Nigeria Labor Congress, NLC; the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers, NUPENG; and the Petroleum and [Natural] Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria, PENGASSAN.

A statement issued by the chief press secretary of the head of state Mr. David Attah named Mr. Asor Bur, a former federal director general and former deputy governor of Benue State as the sole administrator of the NLC, while Mr. James Ajibola will function as secretary. The sole administrator of PENGASSAN is Dr. Lasisi Osunde, a top executive member of the NLC, who will be assisted by Alhaji A.M. Gusau as secretary. An active member of the Academic Staff Union of Universities, Dr. Ahmed Jalingo, is named the sole administrator of NUPENG, while Reverend Okon is to function as secretary.

The action, the statement said, is sequel to the national broadcast of the head of state, in which he authorized the minister of labor and productivity to take appropriate action to appoint administrators and secretaries to oversee the affairs of the unions whose councils were dissolved yesterday. The statement urged all workers to return to work immediately, adding that government will provide adequate security.

Kaduna State Criticizes 'Crass' International Media

AB1808214694 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] The Kaduna State Government has drawn the attention of the general public to recent media reports on the Cable News Network, CNN, and the BBC about a demonstration by some groups in Kaduna. In a statement issued this evening by the state commissioner for information, Alhaji Idi Faruk, the State Government said that such media reports underscore what it described as a lack of caution by some international media which, it said, could have very grave consequences. The state government called on the public to ignore such reports which, it claims, are designed to destabilize the government. The statement reiterated that the people of Kaduna State have opted for peaceful coexistence and have demonstrated their unflinching support to the administration. It described BBC and CNN as organizations of immense credibility and international repute. They should, therefore, avoid being dragged into crass journalism.

Plateau State Chiefs Urge Unions To Return to Work

AB1808224594 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The Plateau State Council of Chiefs has called for a peaceful resolution of the current political and economic problems in the country. The council notes that incessant politically motivated strikes and a resort to violence as a means of tackling issues do not augur well for the political, economic, and social well-being of the nation. This is contained in a nine-point communique issued at the end of the council meeting on the current situation in the country held in Jos.

In the communique read by the chairman of the State Traditional Council, [words and name indistinct], the traditional rulers appealed to labor unions in the country to fully return to work in order to restore normalcy in the country. The council commended the labor force in the state for its maturity and understanding by not calling on workers to go on strike. [passage omitted including indistinct portion]

Retired Oil Sector Workers Asked To Register for Jobs

AB1808215094 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] The minister of labor and productivity, Dr. Samuel Ogbemudia, has requested retired employees of all companies who are graduates and technicians in geology, chemical

engineering, and other petroleum-related disciplines to register immediately with labor exchange offices in their states of residence. The registration is to explore the possibility of offering the retired employees employment in different fields of operation in the oil industry. In a press statement from the office of the chief press secretary to the head of state, Dr. Ogbemudia also called on all senior and junior workers of banks and other financial institutions to report to work on Monday [22 August].

Petroleum Minister Appeals to Workers To Return to Work

AB1908094594 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 0600 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The minister of petroleum resources, Chief Don Etiebet, has directed workers in the petroleum industry to resume work immediately, despite the dissolution of the executive committees of NUPENG [National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers] and PENGASSAN [Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria] by the Federal Government. Chief Etiebet gave the directive while speaking with State House correspondents in Abuja. Haruna Idriss was there:

[Begin recording] [Idriss] The minister directed all NNPC [Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation] workers in all subsidiaries, particularly the refinery and depots, to resume work immediately, so that by Monday [22 August], petroleum production, distribution, and availability will commence. Chief Etiebet extended government's appreciation to workers who did not join the strike, and to Nigerians who had endured the hardship occasioned by the strike.

On possible losses incurred during the strike, he said, apart from those experienced by Shell Petroleum, who are producing on land, other companies continue their operations unhampered. Chief Etiebet stated that, since the petroleum sector was the lifeblood of the nation, the strike had inflicted some damage, as reflected in rising prices of foodstuffs, transportation, and other aspects of national life. The petroleum minister expressed the government's appreciation to joint venture partners for devising ways to keep crude oil production and export going. Chief Etiebet also spoke on the government's expectations in the next one week:

[Etiebet] First, in the next one week, we want to immediately return to full-scale production in [words indistinct]. As I said before, we are calling on all the workers to return to their base and right from now, those working shifts, working weekends, should return to their facilities and their base and start (?putting back) those things that have been off in place so that by Monday, things will start moving again. [sentence as heard]

Nevertheless, there is still going to be a lot of mop-up operations here and there, particularly in the distribution of petroleum products, where some of the workers, particularly the tanker drivers, had not been returning to

work. So, it will take some time for some of them to come back to their places of work from their different villages or towns, or places of abode. So, we expect about seven days of not returning to average normalcy in the operations; and by the end of seven days, I hope that we shall return to normal operations.

[Idriss] The minister called on the workers to abide by the directives contained in the head of state's address and return to work in their own interest, and pledged government's commitment to ensure their security.

[Etiebet] Well, I do not think there will be any harassment from any sector of those who are not willing to return to work, by those who are not willing to return to work [repeats]. I take this opportunity to appeal to trade unions to return to work, and if they have any industrial or economic points to discuss with the management of NNPC or with the government, we are ready to talk with them, but not any [word indistinct].

[Idriss] Chief Etiebet said the NNPC will continue with the present contingency plan to ensure oil production. [end recording]

Abiola Trial Reportedly To Resume 29 Aug

AB1908100094 Paris AFP in English 0914 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] Lagos, Aug 19 (AFP)—The treason trial of jailed Nigerian opposition leader Moshood Abiola will resume in Abuja on 29 August, a top judicial official said here Friday [19 August].

The resumption date was announced by Babatunde Belgore, the presiding judge of Nigeria's Federal High Court.

The news came three days after military ruler Sani Abacha confounded widespread expectations that he would order Abiola's unconditional release.

Abiola is on trial after declaring himself head of state in June, a year after the presidential election he was widely believed to have won was annulled by the military.

Belgore said a new judge would be appointed to hear Abiola's case prior to its resumption.

On Tuesday, amid mounting speculation that Abiola was about to be freed, trial judge Abdullahi Mustapha stood down from the case, charging that the defence had questioned his impartiality.

Oil workers have been on strike since 4 July to press for the unconditional release of Abiola and his installation as president at the head of a civilian government. The strike has paralysed much of the country.

Leaders of the country's two oil unions vowed Thursday to escalate the strike, rejecting an Abacha order dissolving their executive councils.

Dissolved Union Leaderships Urge Continuance of Strike

AB1908120094 Paris AFP in English 1137 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] Lagos, Aug 19 (AFP)—The dissolved leadership of Nigeria's powerful oil unions has urged oil workers to

continue their six-week-old strike action aimed at securing the release of jailed opposition leader Moshood Abiola and the end of military rule.

In an appeal published in the Friday [19 August] edition of the VANGUARD daily, the PENGASSAN [Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria] oil union called on workers to press on with the strike, which has crippled large parts of Nigerian industry, until their demands had been met.

"We salute the courage of our members and hereby direct them to sustain the strike action until the government meets our demands in concrete terms," the union statement said.

The communique was signed by Bola Owoduni, head of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association (PENGASSAN) before his replacement Thursday by Lasisi Osunde, a civilian appointed by the military government.

Wariebi Agamene, leader of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas (NUPENG)—replaced Thursday by Ahmed Jalingo—warned of an escalation of the conflict following the military government crackdown on the oil unions and the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), which groups some 40 union bodies.

The authorities on Thursday named civilians to head the two oil unions and ringed the union offices with armed police in the latest trial of strength with organised labour.

On Friday the oil union leaders urged "other well-meaning Nigerians" to back the oil workers call for the military to stand down and install millionaire businessman Abiola as president at the head of a civilian government.

Abiola is widely presumed to have won presidential elections in June 1993 organised and later annulled by the military.

He is currently in detention on treason charges after he declared the military government of General Sani Abacha illegal and proclaimed himself head of state. His trial is due to resume on 29 August.

In a nationwide television broadcast Wednesday Abacha defended the tough action against the striking oil unions and the NLC because they had embarked on "illegal" activities which had badly affected vital sectors of the economy.

In Abuja, Oil Minister Don Etiebet and Labour Minister Samuel Ogbemudia called on the strikers to return to work "by Monday at the latest," according to Nigerian radio.

Ogbemudia called on all retired senior staff and engineers in the oil sector to go to his ministry in view of being re-employed, the radio said. The minister's call targeted people who had worked in oil exploration and drilling, the radio added.

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